

List of titles in Series 737

**Man and his world**

*water*

*man in the air*

*man and his car*

*man on the sea*

*castles*

*roads*

*trains*

*bridges*

*homes*

*soldiers*

*sounds*

*air*

*fire*

**Geography**

*under the ground*

*deserts*

*the stream*

*coffee*

*chocolate and cocoa*

*bread*

*polar regions*

*mountains*

*forests*

*islands*

*tea*

**Natural History**

*ducks and swans*

*lions and tigers*

*dinosaurs*

*baby animals*

*song birds*

*leaves*

*big animals*

*apes and monkeys*

*living things*

*the tree and its world*

*seals and whales*

*reptiles*

*teeth*

*fruit*

*bears and pandas*

Ladybird titles cover a wide range of subjects and reading ages. Write for a free illustrated list from the publishers:

**LADYBIRD BOOKS LTD**

Loughborough Leicestershire England

Printed in England

ISBN 0-7214-0377-8

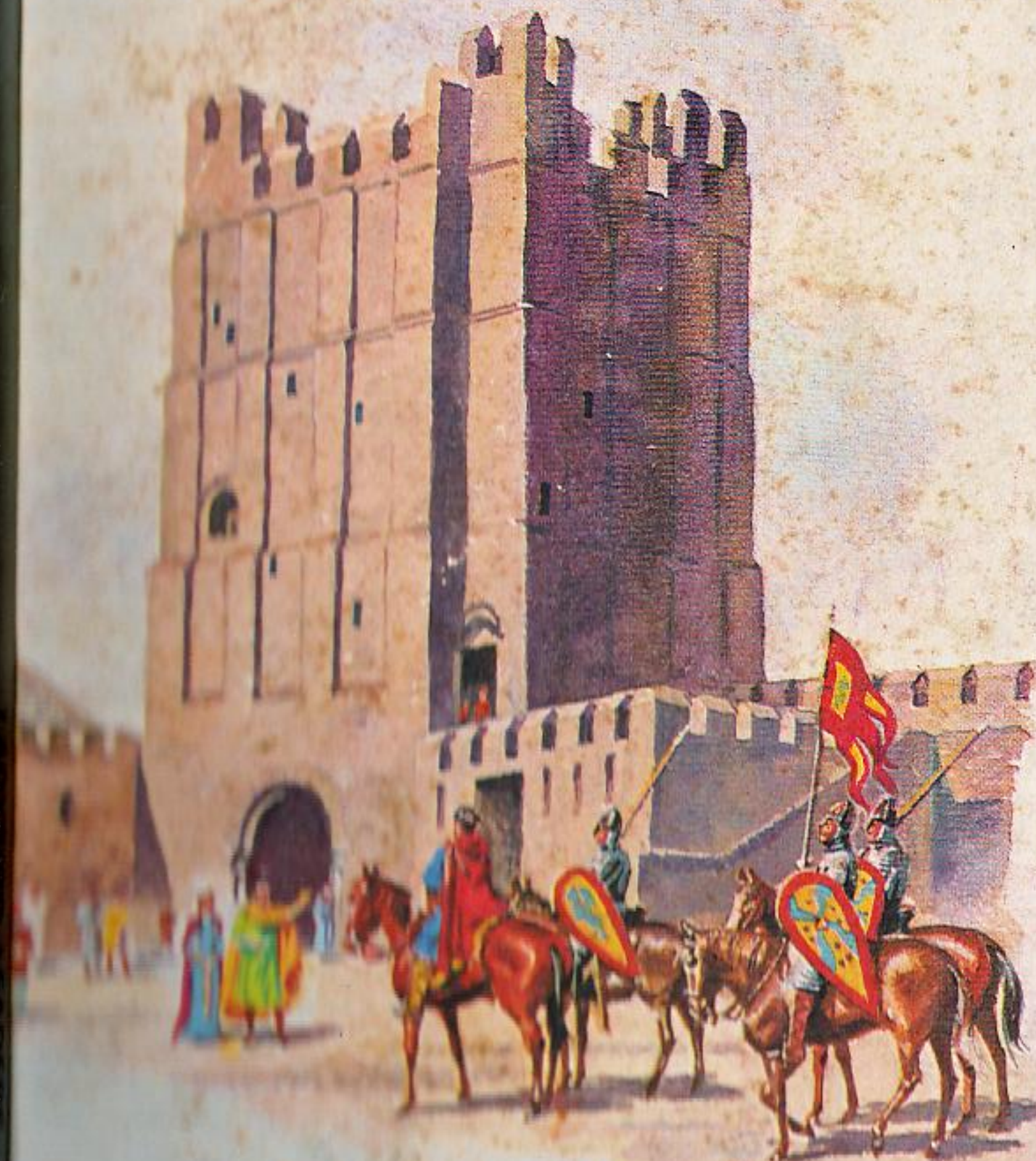


9 780721 403779



castles

# castles







## **to teachers and parents**

This is a LADYBIRD  
LEADER book, one of a  
series specially produced  
to meet the very real need  
for carefully planned  
*first information books*  
that instantly attract  
enquiring minds and  
stimulate reluctant readers.

The subject matter and  
vocabulary have been selected  
with expert assistance, and the  
brief and simple text is printed  
in large, clear type.

Children's questions are  
anticipated and facts presented  
in a logical sequence. Where  
possible, the books show  
what happened in the past  
and what is relevant today.

Special artwork has been  
commissioned to set a standard  
rarely seen in books for this  
reading age and at this price.

Full-colour illustrations are on  
all 48 pages to give maximum  
impact and provide the  
extra enrichment that is the  
aim of all Ladybird Leaders.



© LADYBIRD BOOKS LTD MCMLXXIV

*All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photo-copying, recording or otherwise, without the prior consent of the copyright owner.*



A Ladybird Leader

# castles

Written by John West

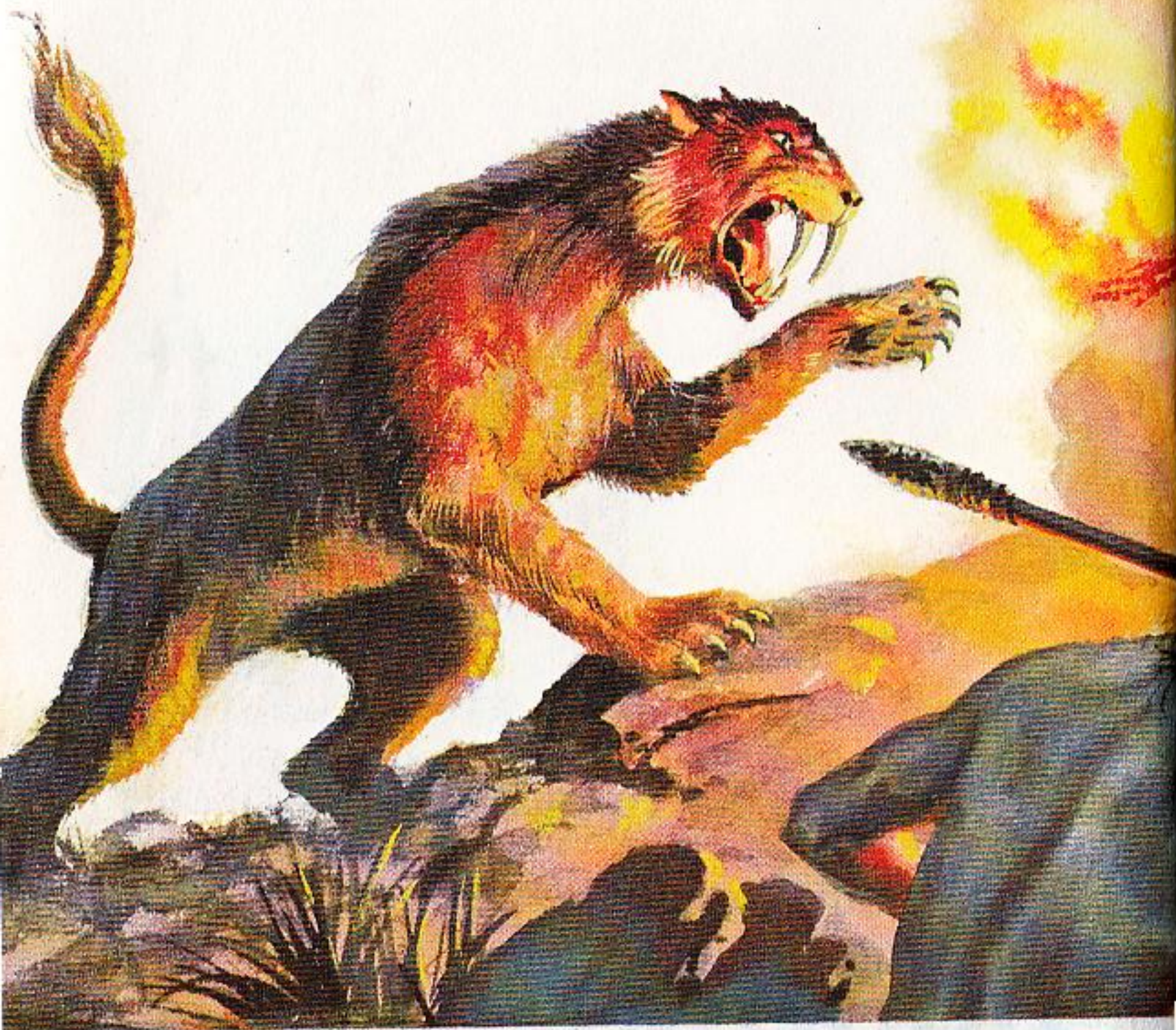
Illustrated by Frank Humphris

---

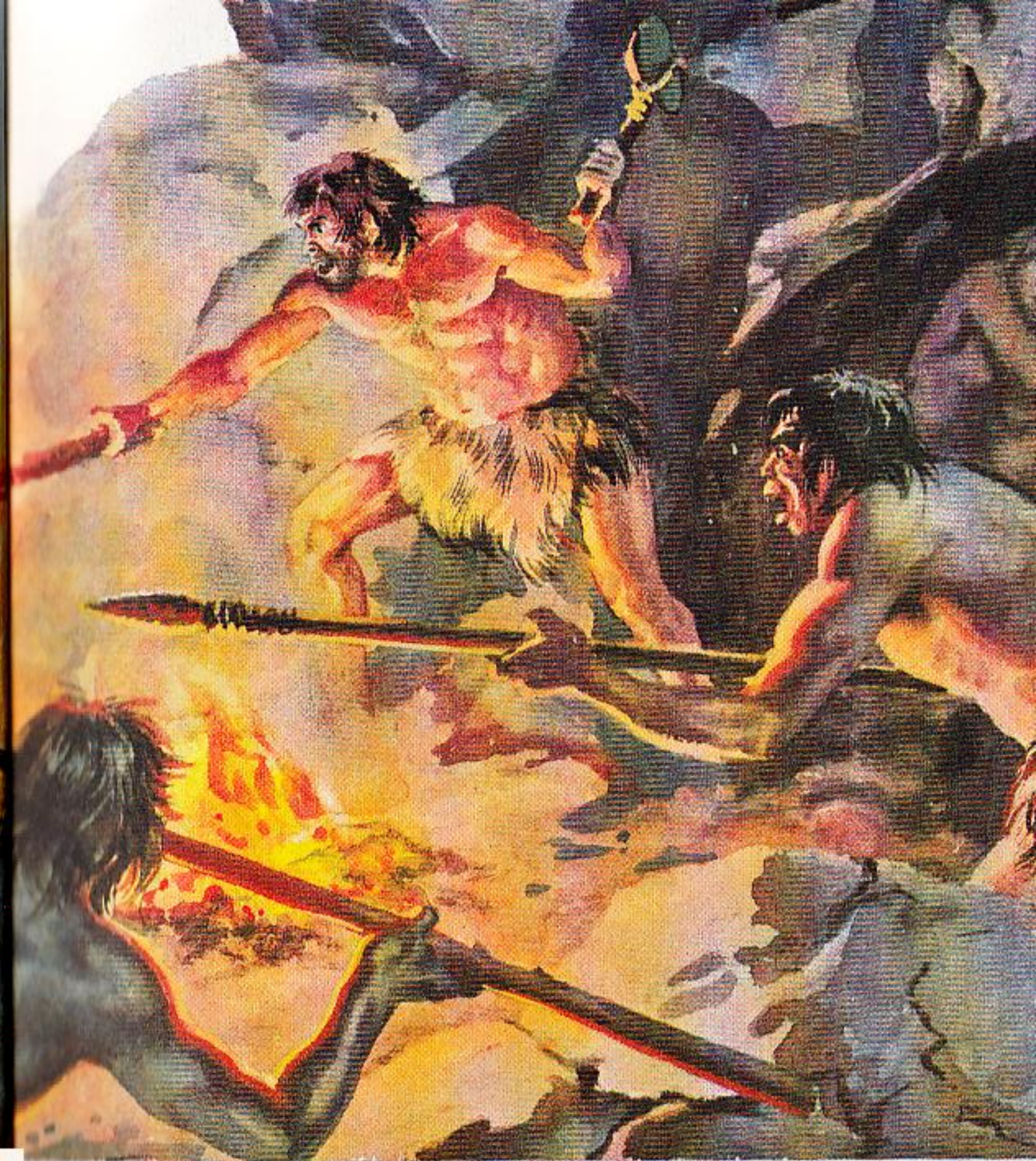
Ladybird Books Loughborough



## Before the days of castles



Men have always needed a place where they could be safe. A cave on a hillside could be a safe place.



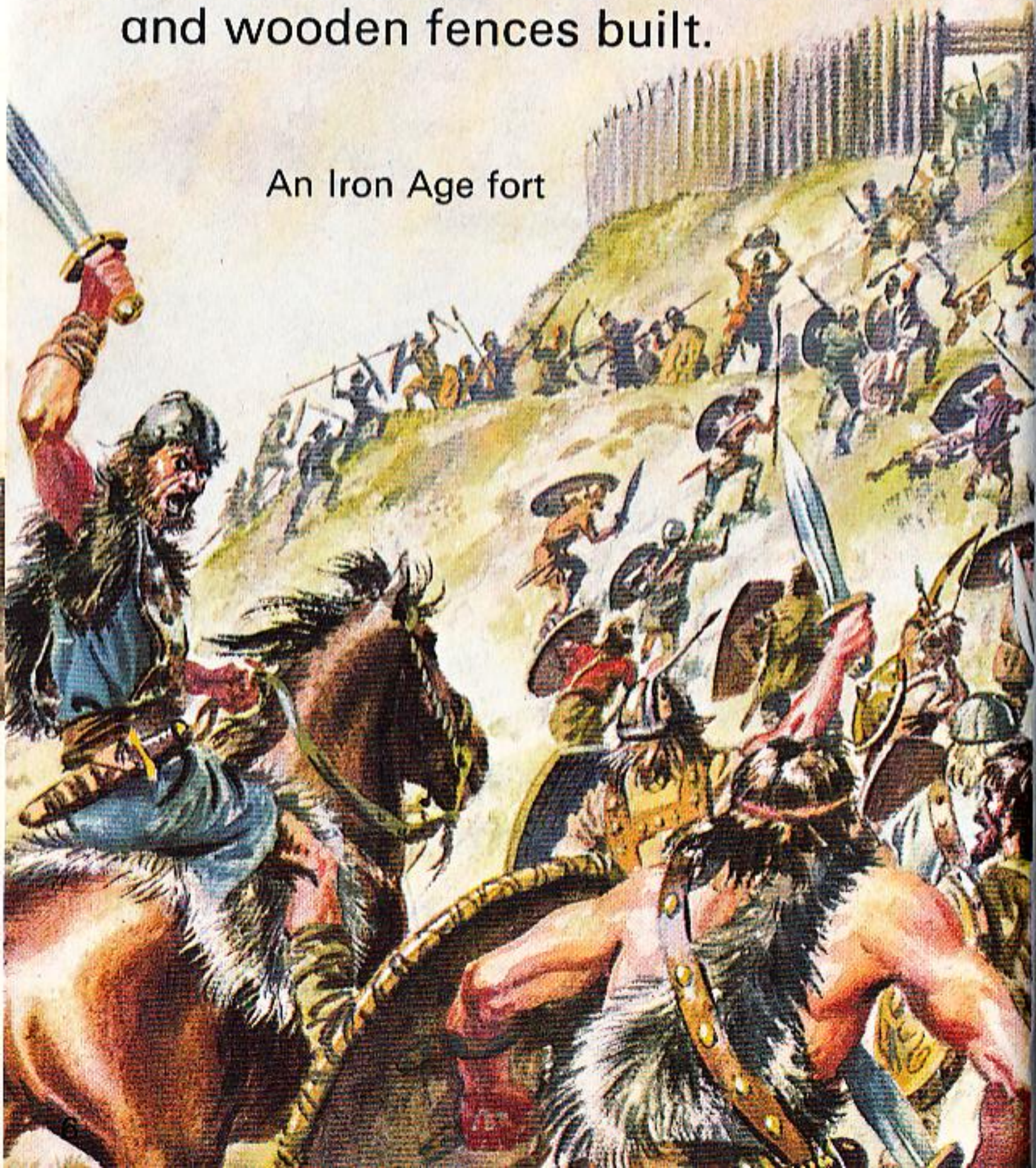
Cave men were often attacked by animals. They defended themselves with fire, sticks and stones.



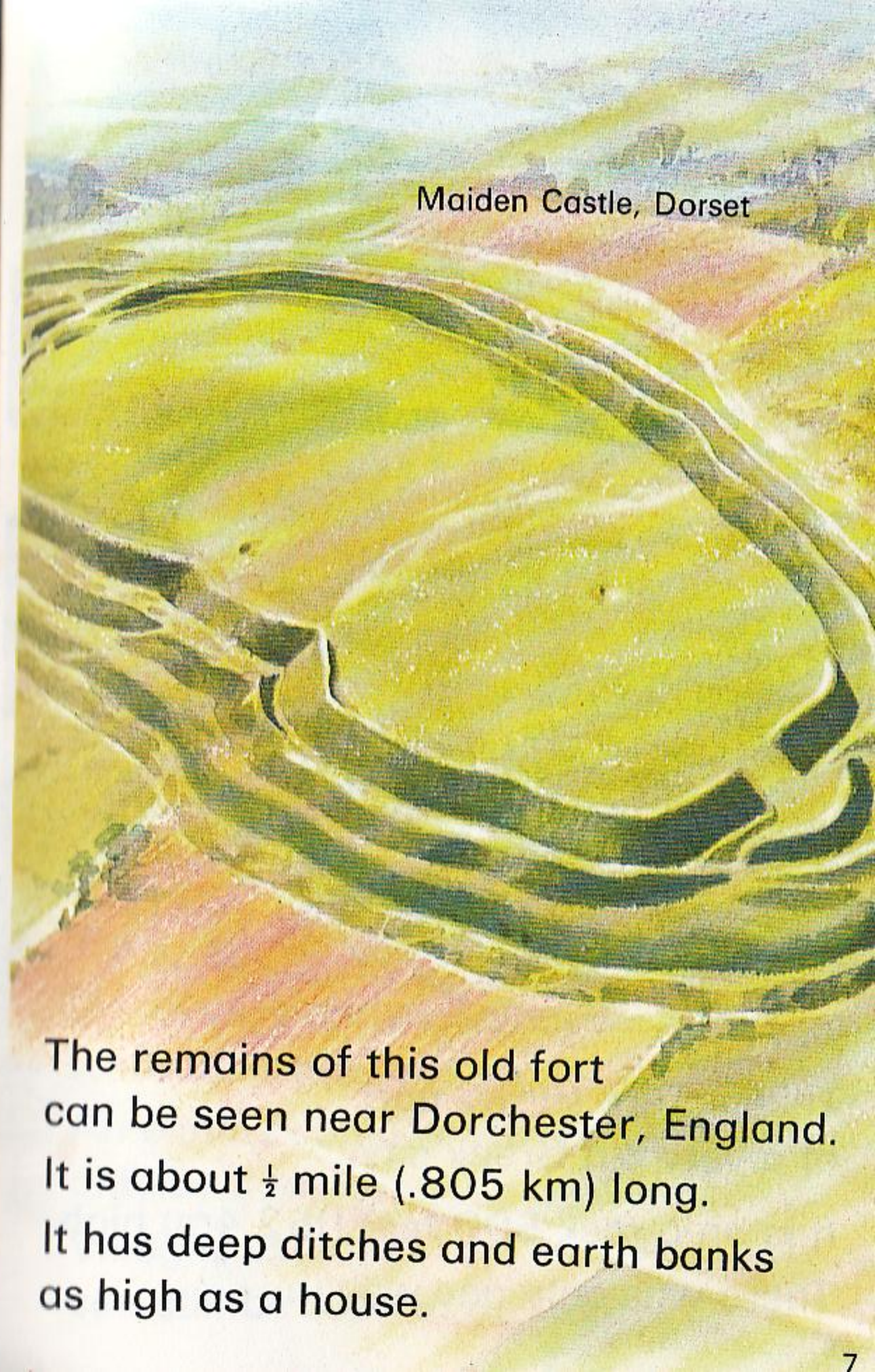
## An earth fort high on a hill

Later, the attackers were other tribes. Hill tops were made into forts. Ditches were dug round them and wooden fences built.

An Iron Age fort



Maiden Castle, Dorset



The remains of this old fort can be seen near Dorchester, England. It is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile (.805 km) long. It has deep ditches and earth banks as high as a house.



## A stone city of Ancient Greece

The Acropolis in Athens



This picture shows part of a very old Greek city.

It is on a rock 500 feet (152.4m) high. There was only one way in.

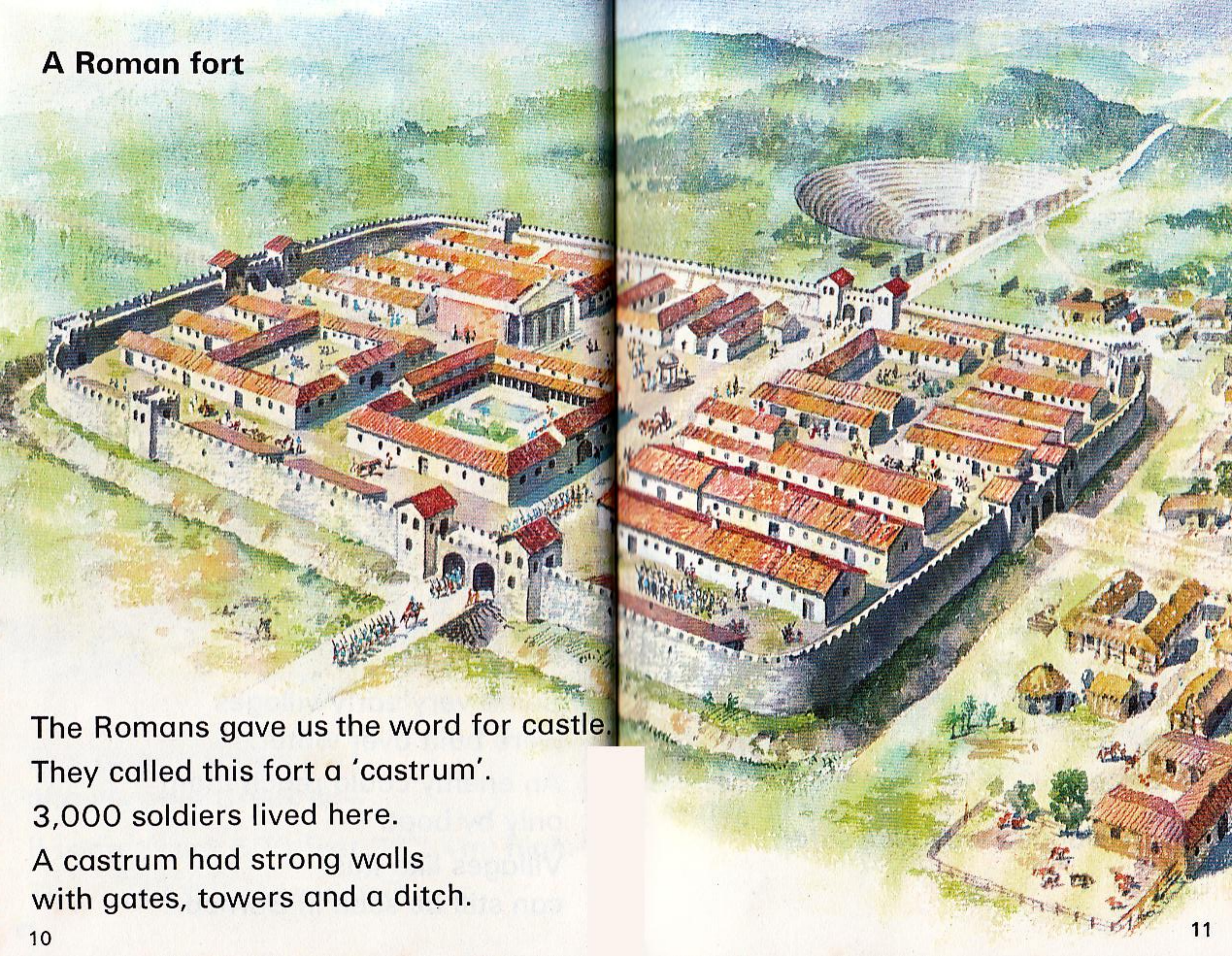
## A village over water



Some very early villages were built over water. An enemy could reach them only by boat. Villages like this can still be seen in Borneo.



## A Roman fort

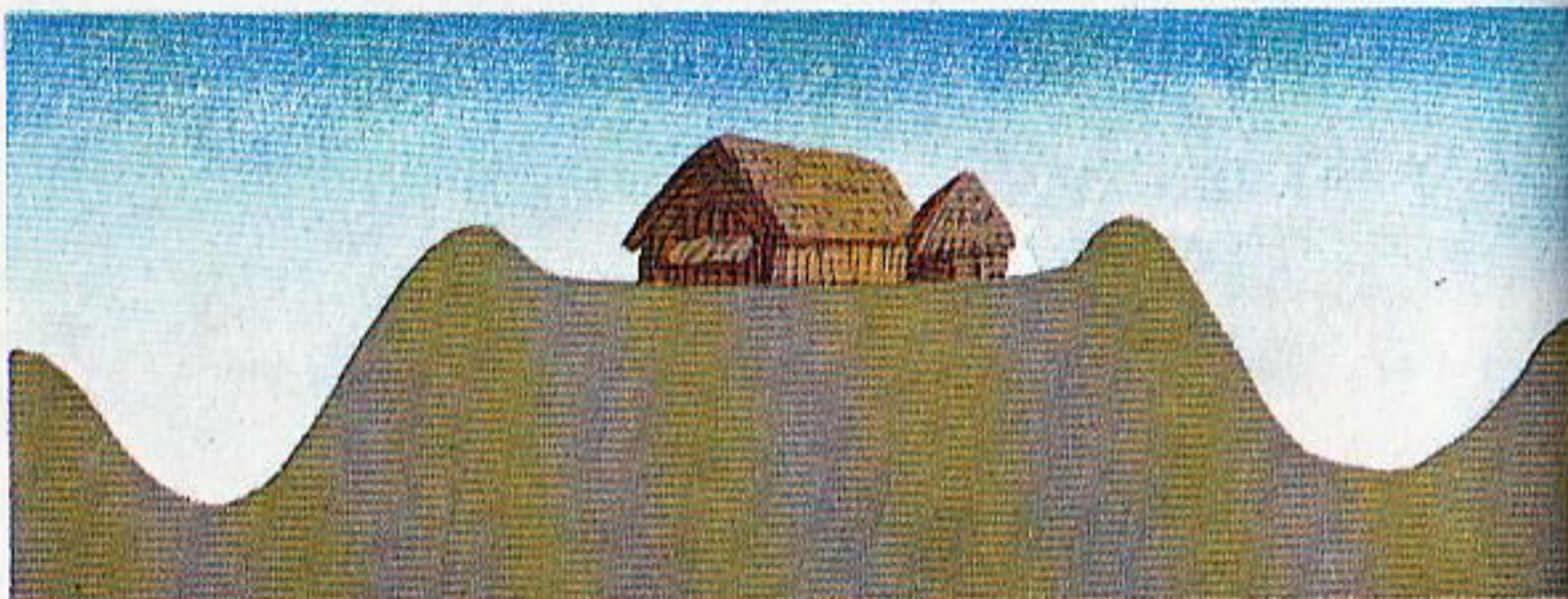


The Romans gave us the word for castle.  
They called this fort a 'castrum'.  
3,000 soldiers lived here.  
A castrum had strong walls  
with gates, towers and a ditch.



## How places became safer

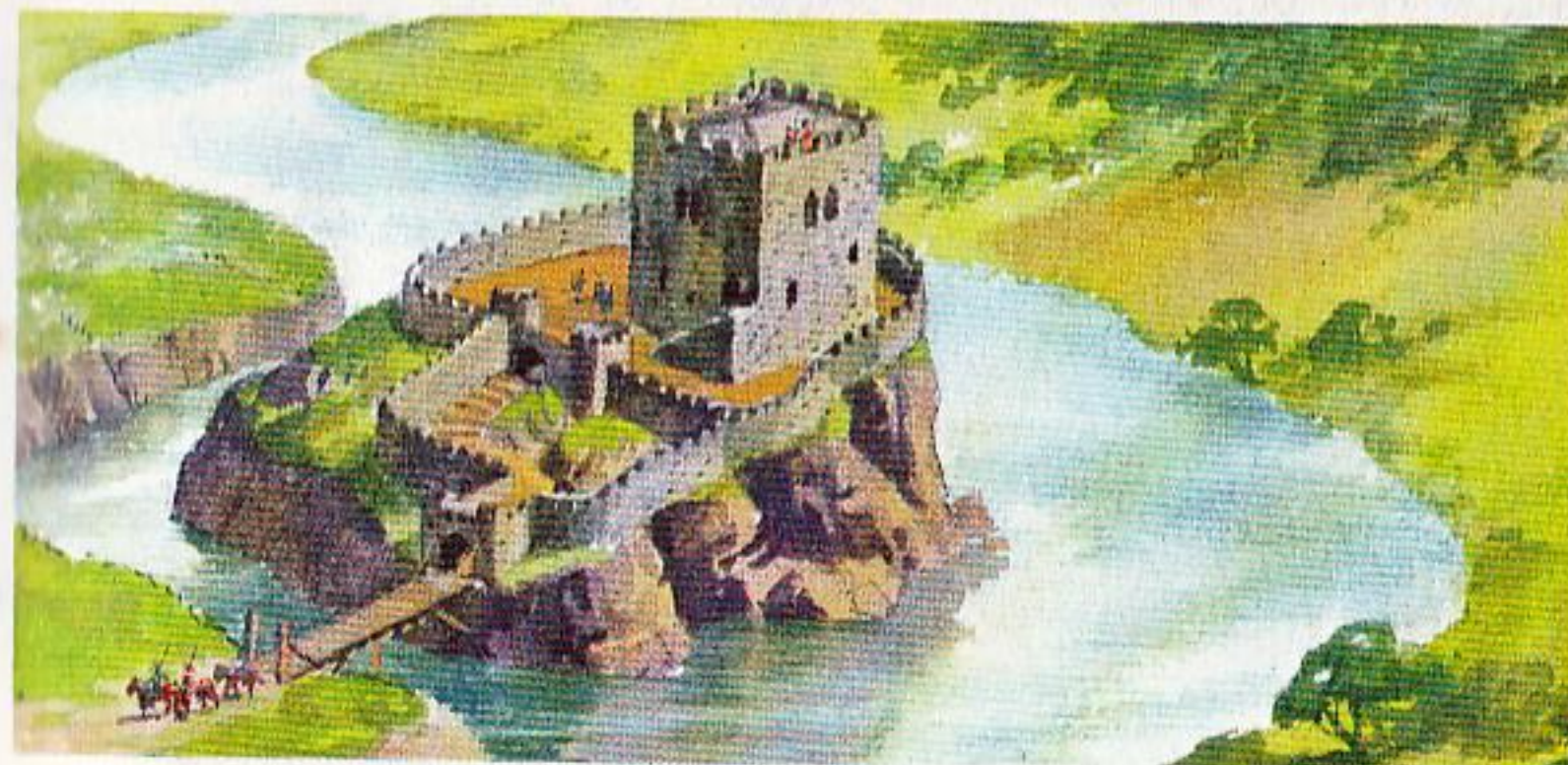
A deep ditch and bank helped to keep attackers away.



A wooden wall was safer.



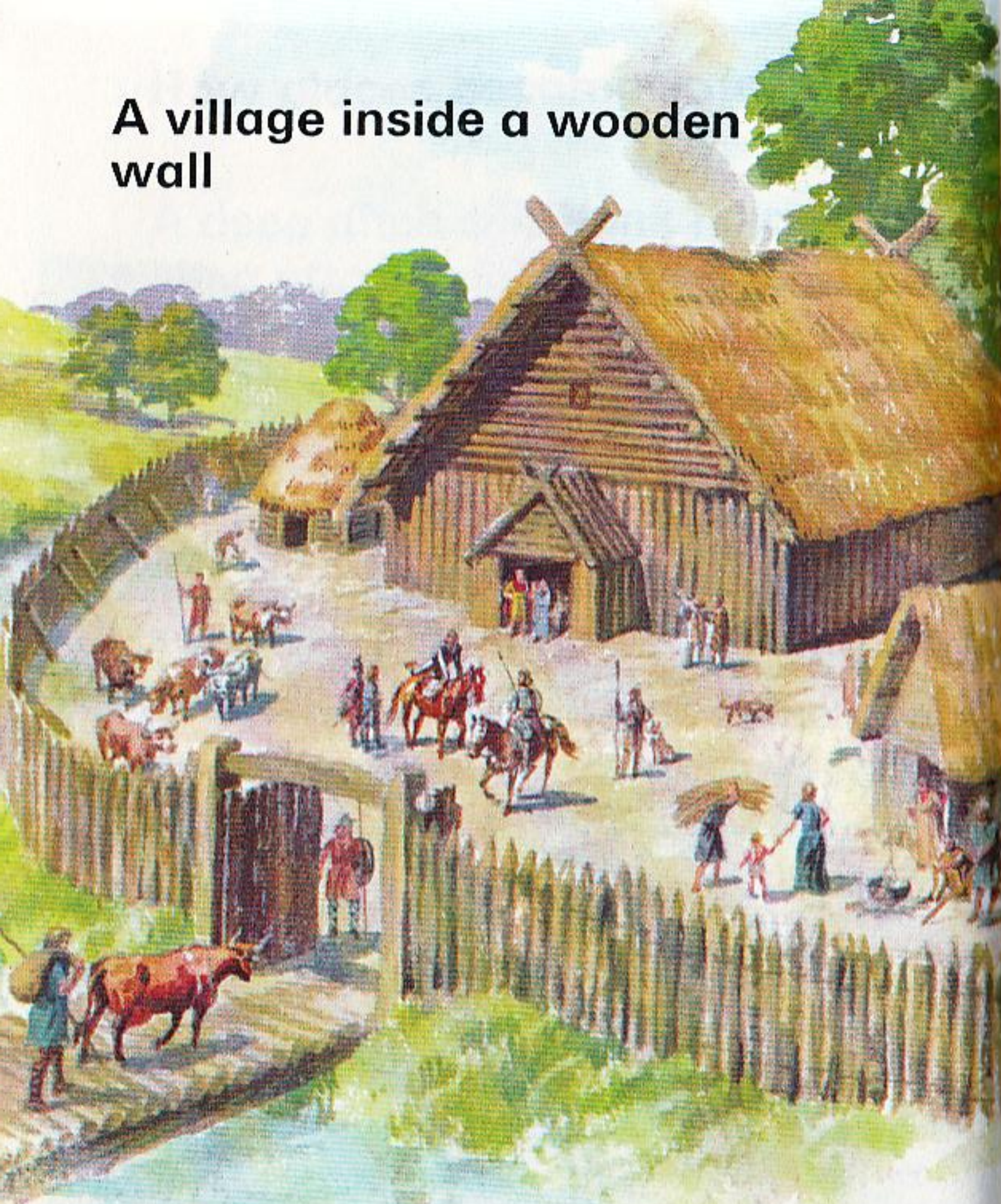
To build on a cliff edge by water was safer still.



Best of all was to have water all round.

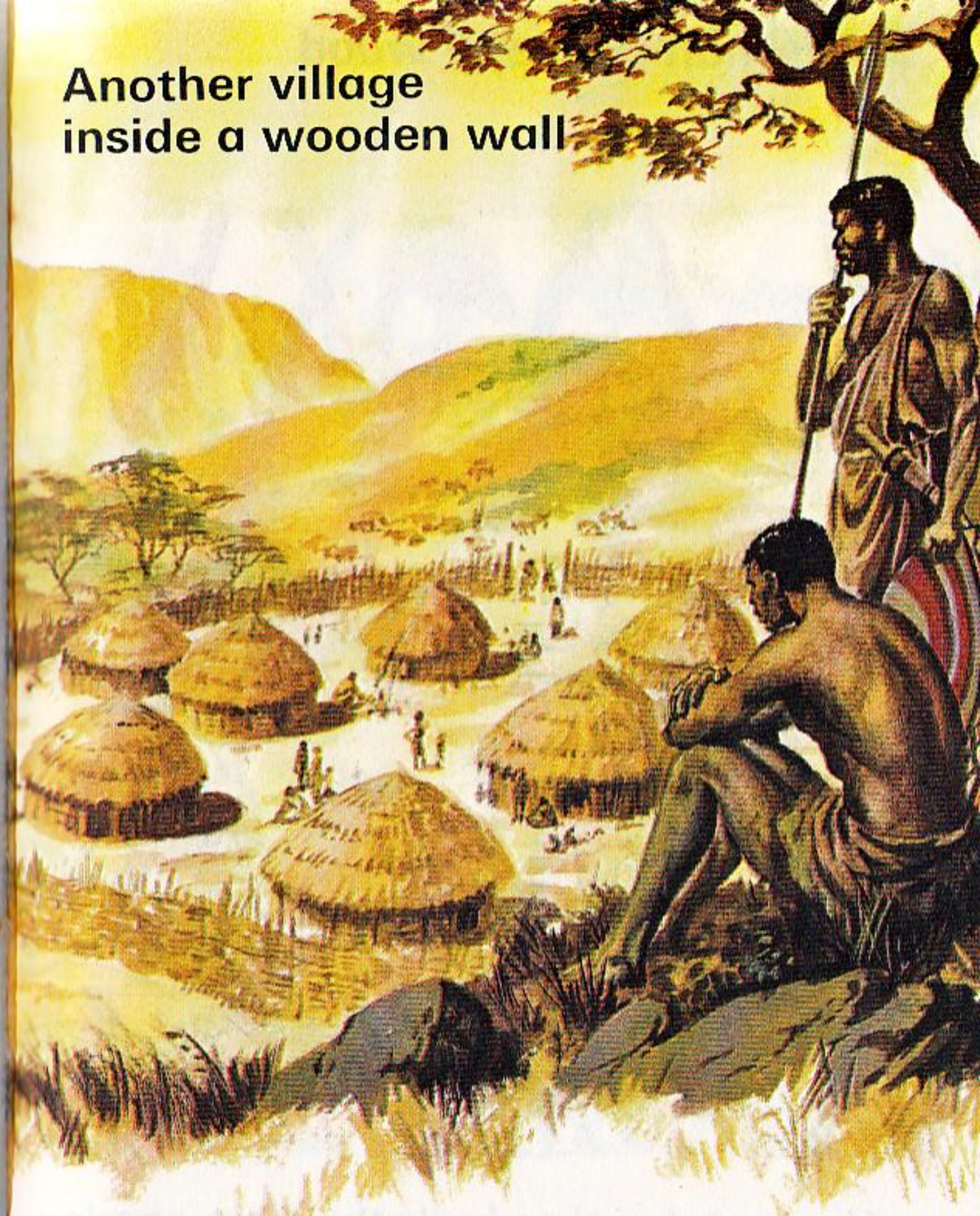


A village inside a wooden wall



Some people built stone walls.  
Others still used wood.  
The sharp stakes kept attackers  
out of this Saxon village.

Another village  
inside a wooden wall



Africans, too, put fences  
around their houses and animals.  
Like the Saxons, they built houses  
with mud, straw and wood.



## A Norman castle of wood



Norman knights built the first castles.  
These were in France.  
They made a little hill of earth  
and put a wooden tower on it.



This picture is part of the famous  
Bayeux tapestry.

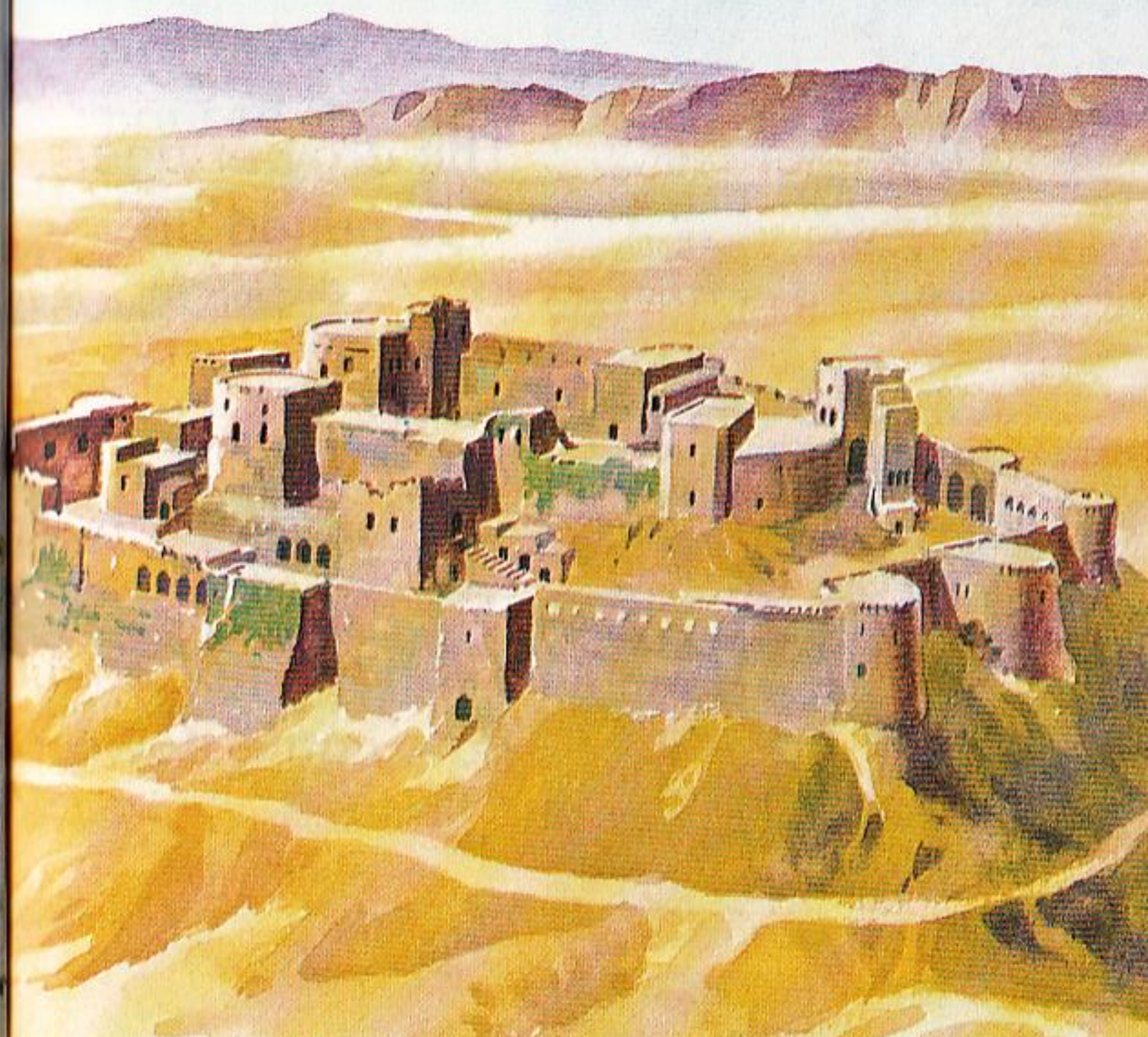


## A Norman castle of stone



Later, the Normans built some stone castles in France, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

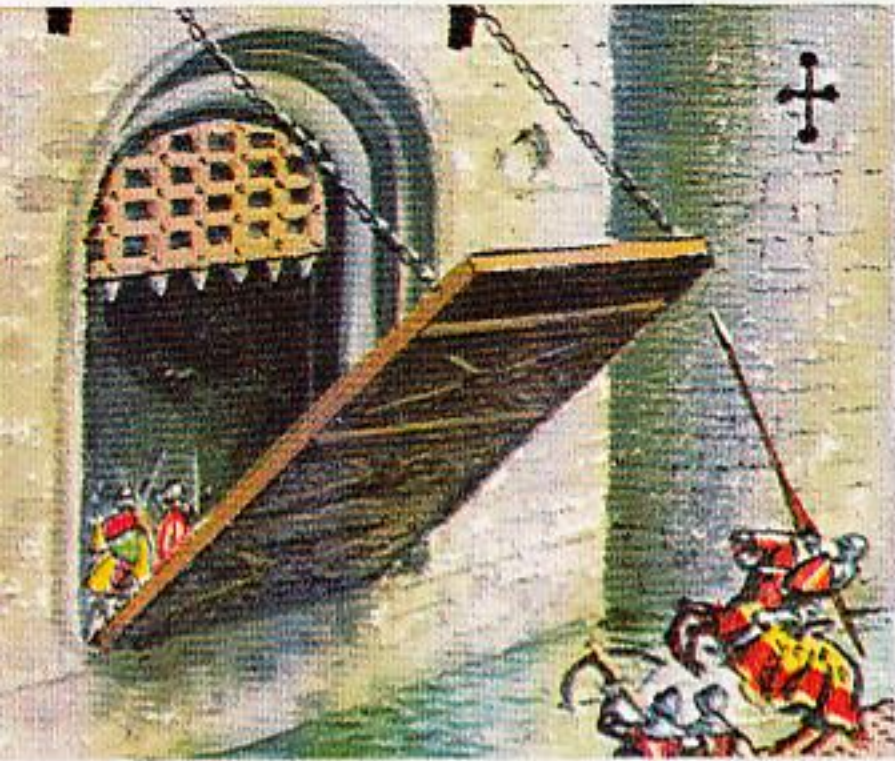
## A castle built by Crusaders



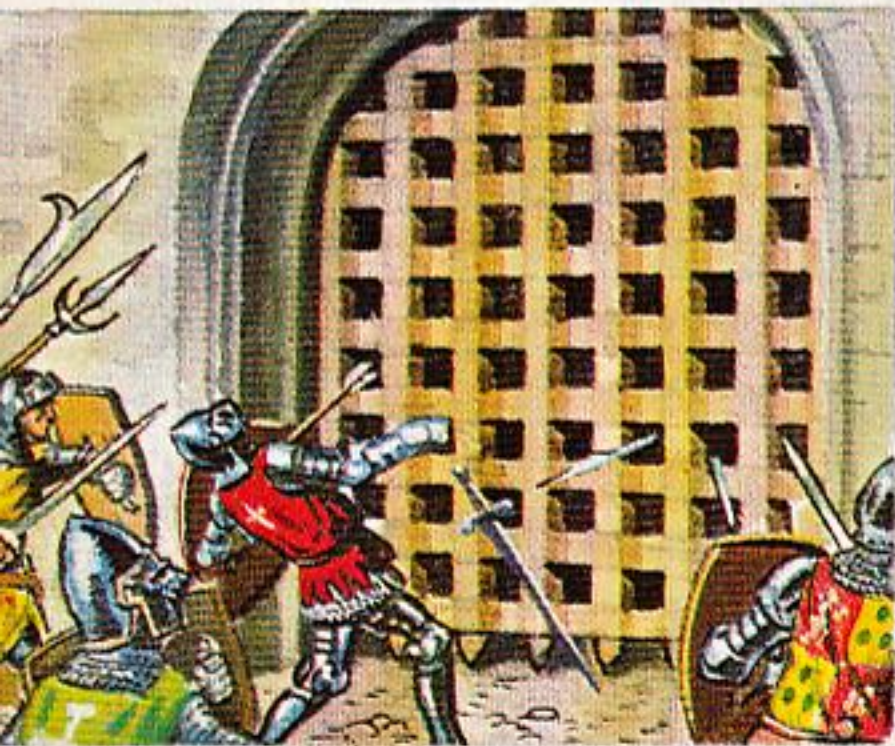
When the Normans fought in Palestine, they were called Crusaders. They built castles there and in Egypt. The ruins are still there in the sand.



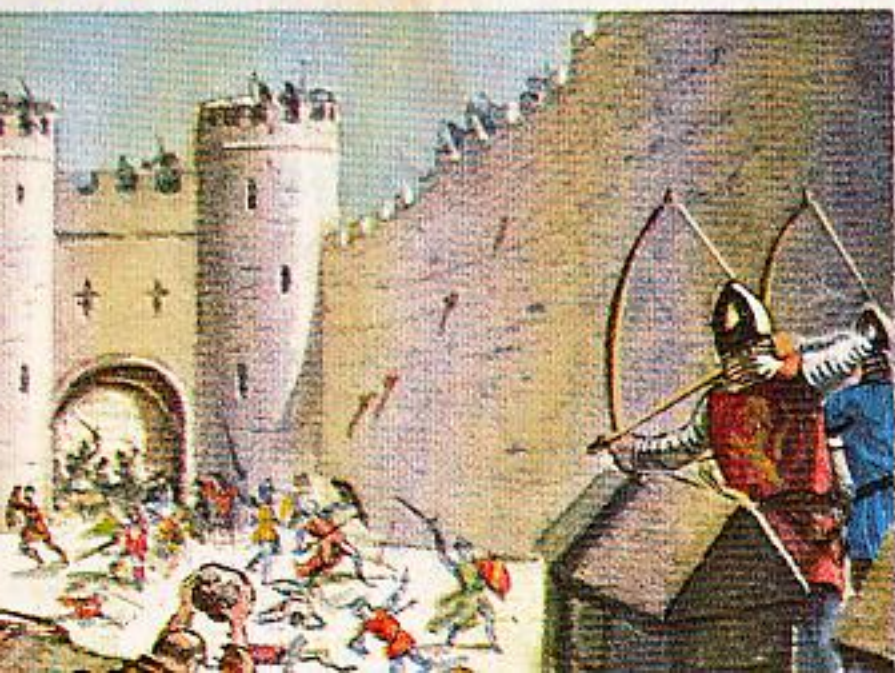
## Defending a castle in the Middle Ages



The drawbridge was pulled up.

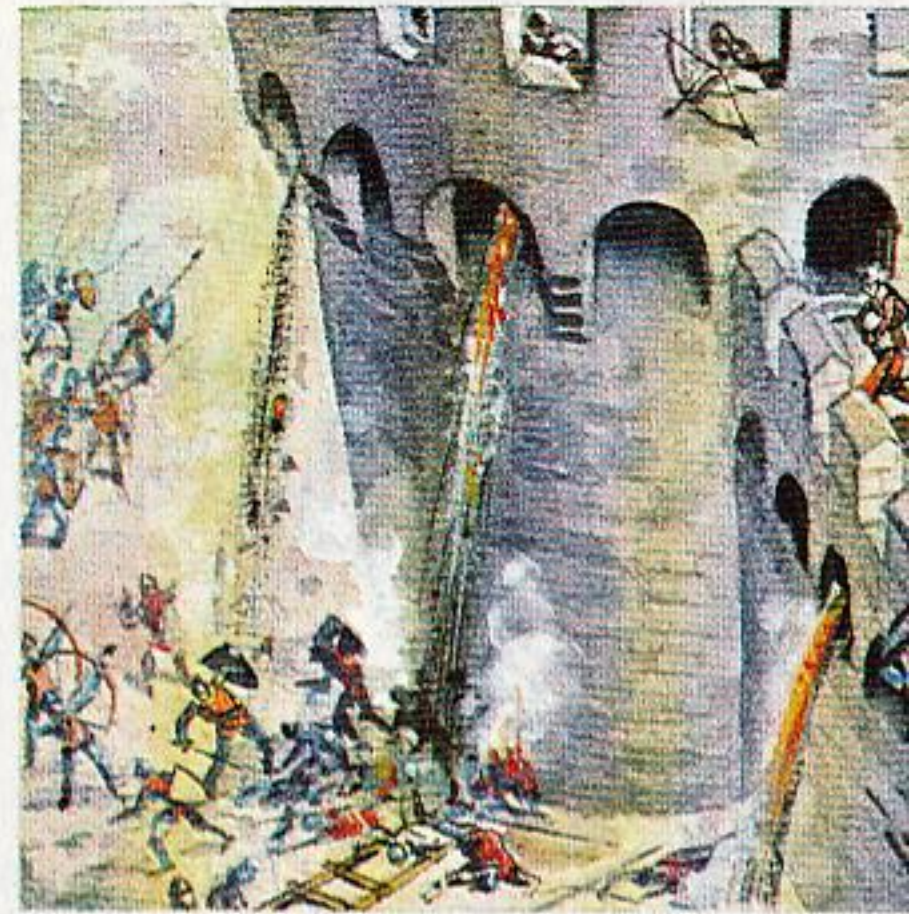


Then the portcullis gate came down.



The first attackers were trapped.

Hot ashes were poured through holes in the walls.



Inside the walls were more walls.



An archer stood at every slit in the walls.

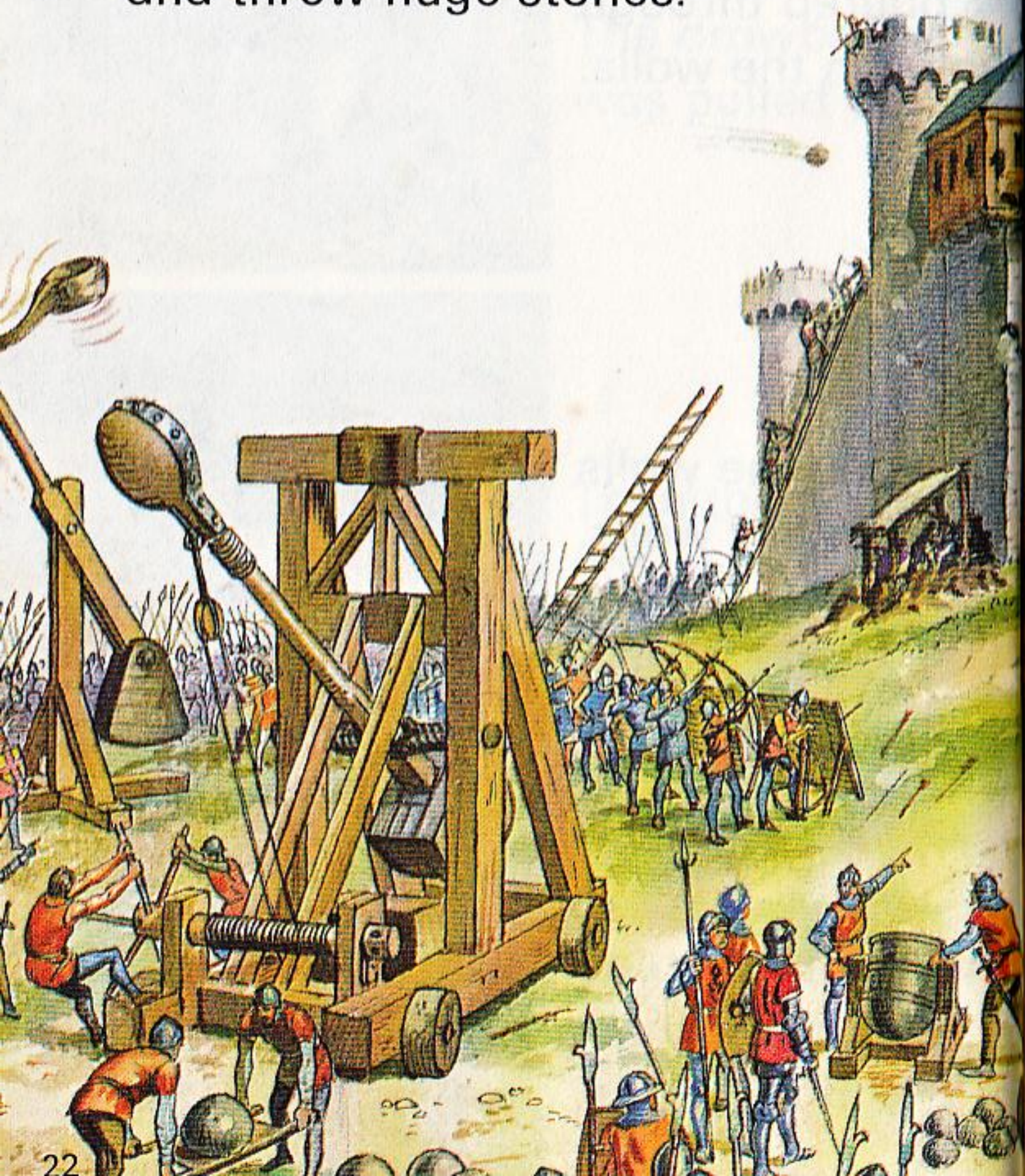




## Capturing a castle

Large, wooden machines were built.

These worked as catapults and threw huge stones.



Heavy tree trunks were used to break down castle doors. Wooden towers and ladders were used to climb over walls. Holes were dug under walls.

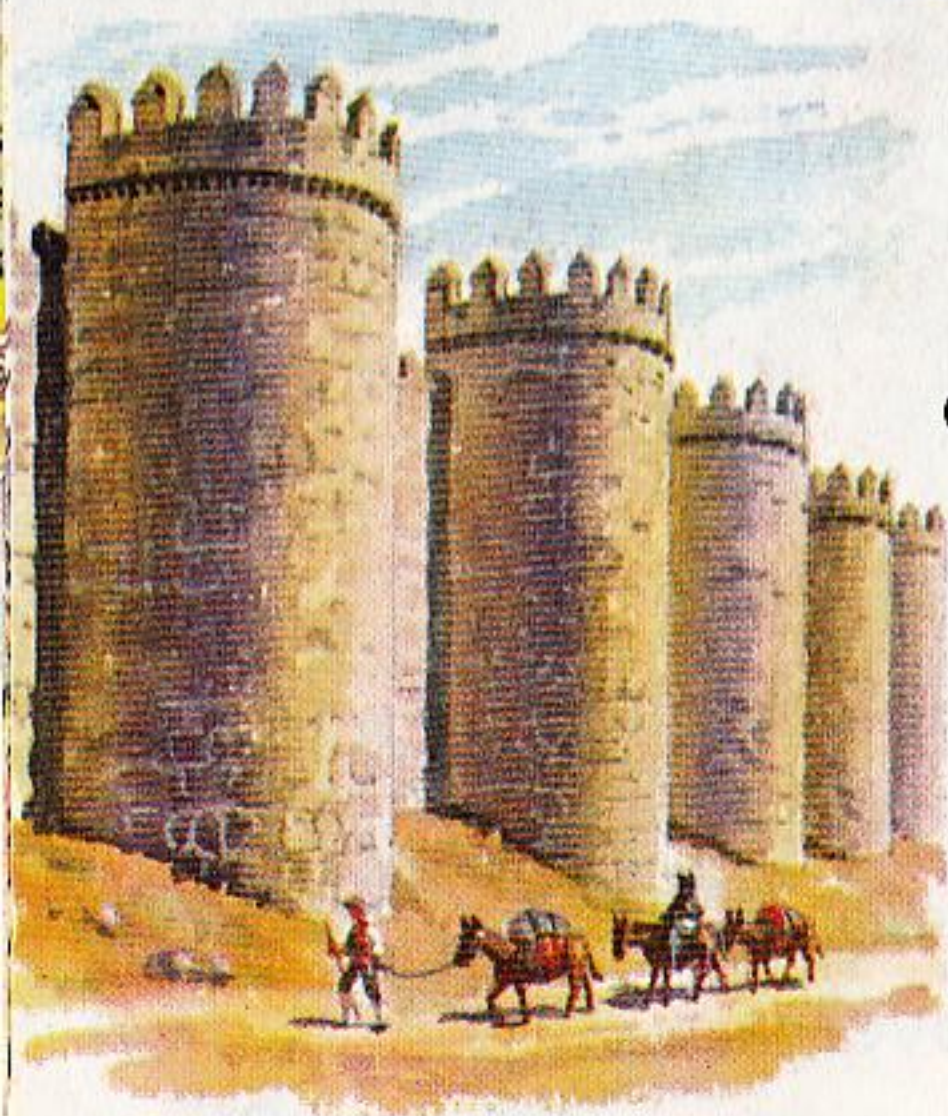


## Towers

A square tower is called a keep.

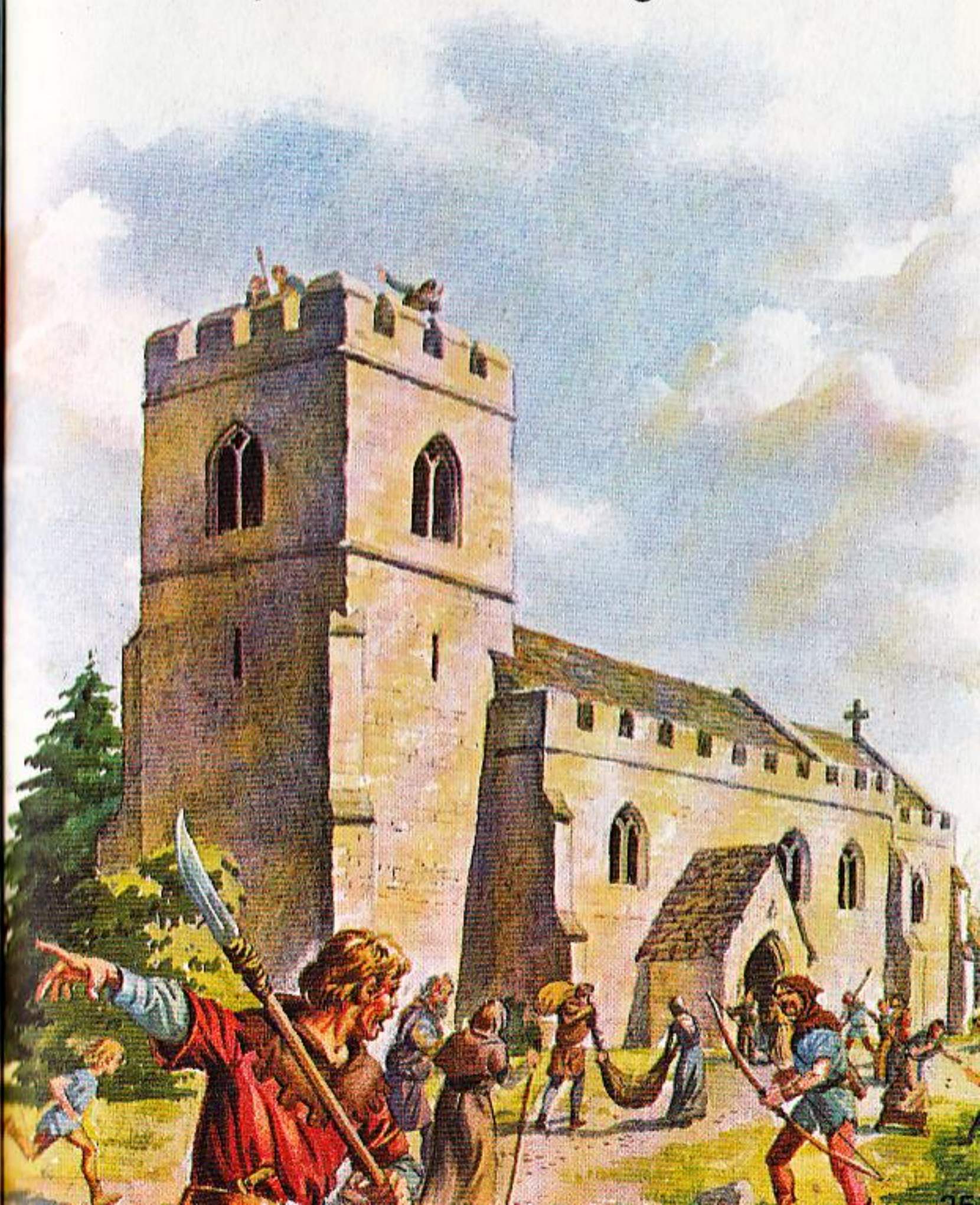


These are often called drum towers. Do you see why?



Church towers were often like castle towers.

Sometimes the church was the safest place in the village.





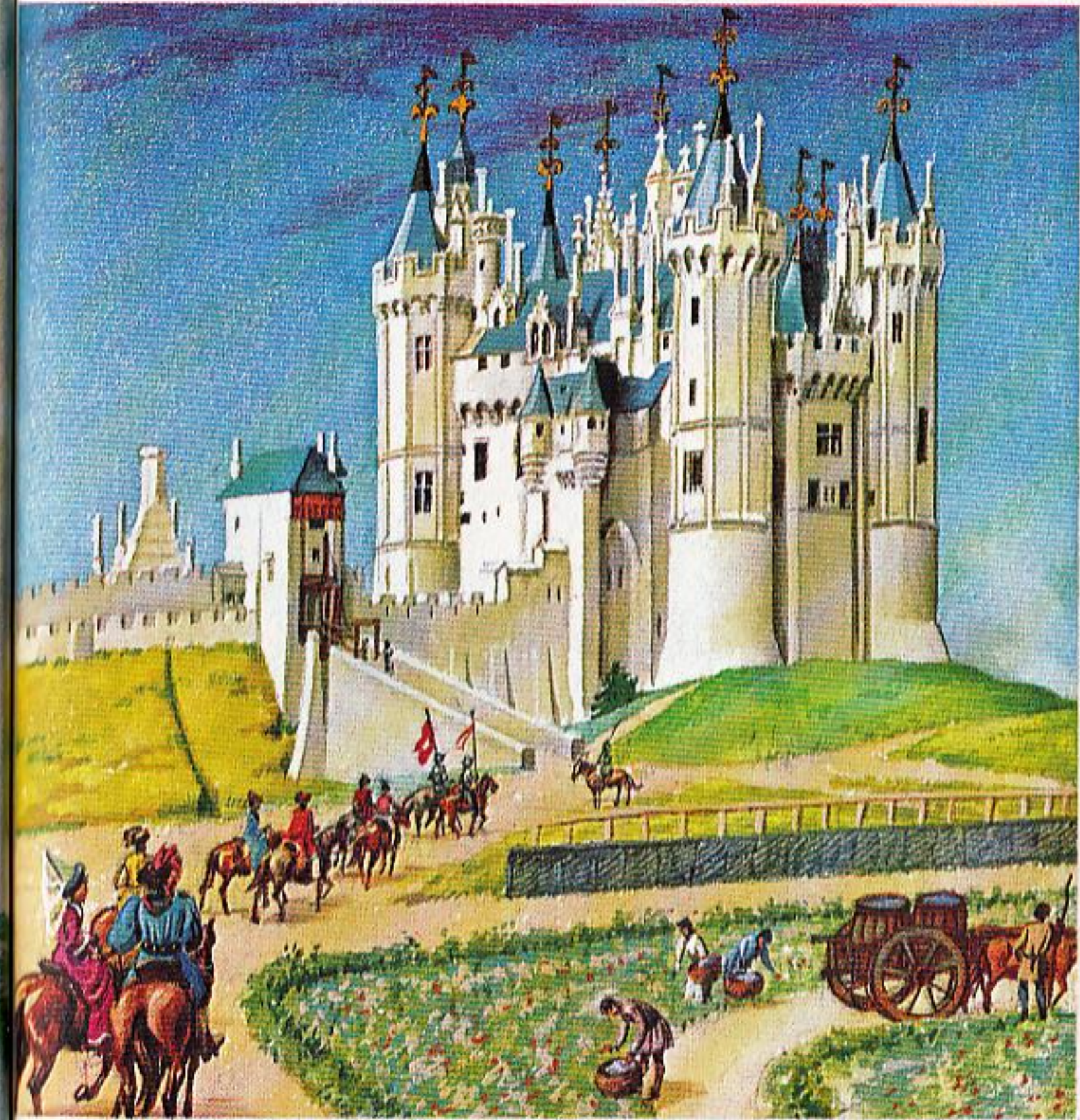
## Ships with 'castles'



In the Middle Ages, ships were built with wooden 'castles' at each end. The front part of a ship's deck is still called the forecastle.

(pronounced fo'c'sle)

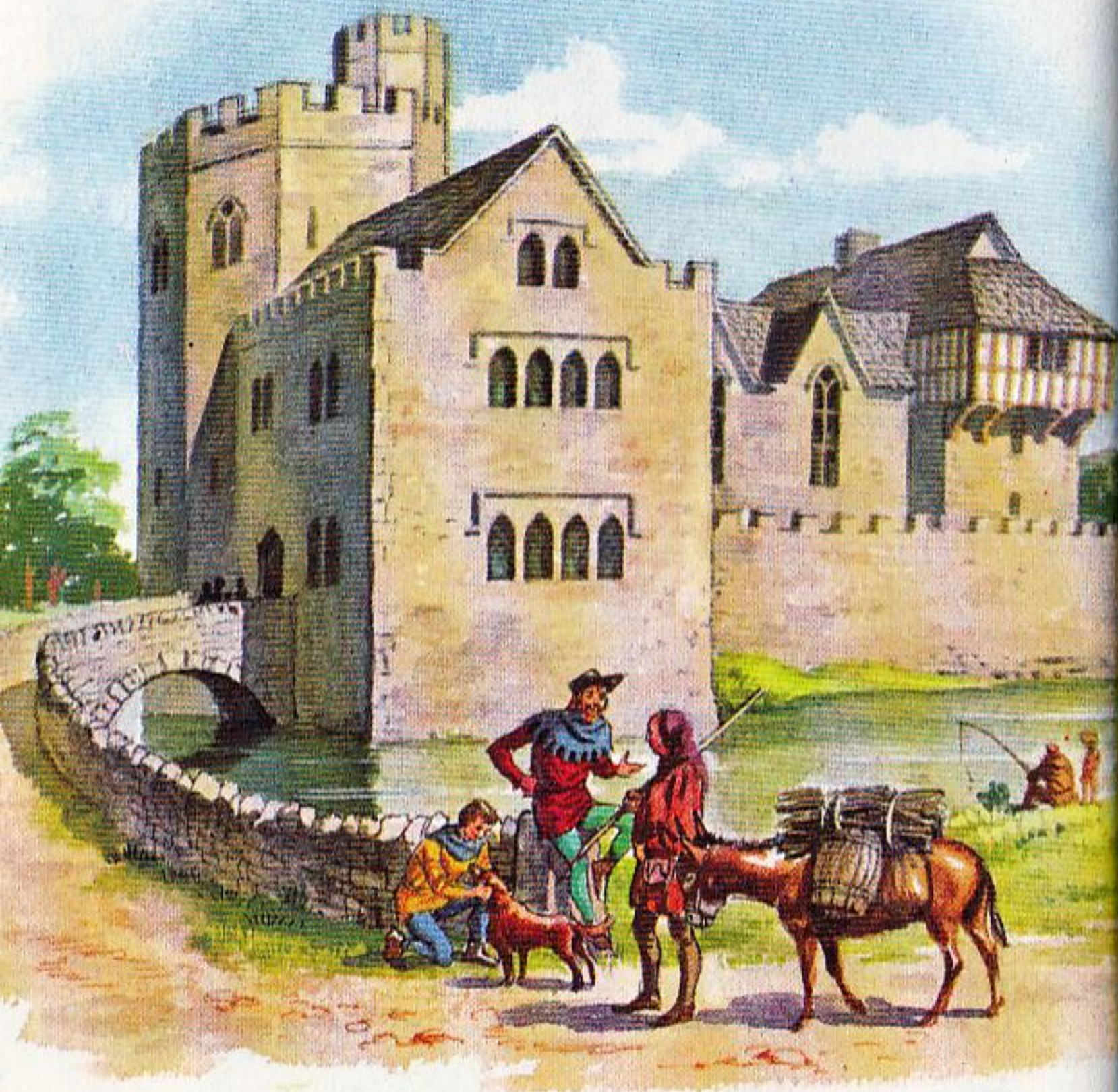
## A 'fairy-story' castle



This was a real French castle. It was like a fairy-story castle for a princess or giant. The towers were round and had tall spires.

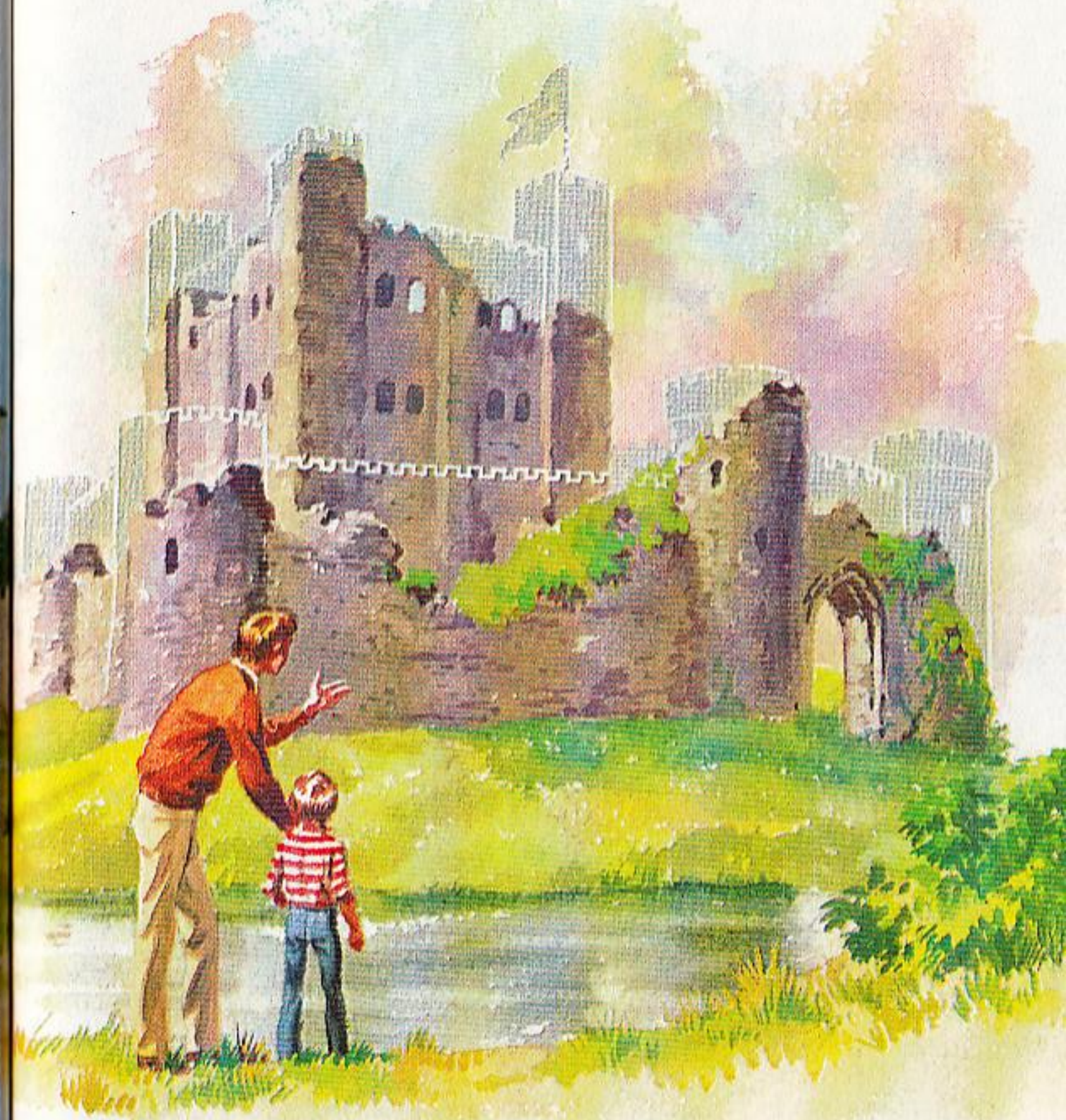


## A fortified farm-house



Some farm-houses needed strong walls to defend them against raiders. This one was a small manor house of the late Middle Ages.

## A ruined castle

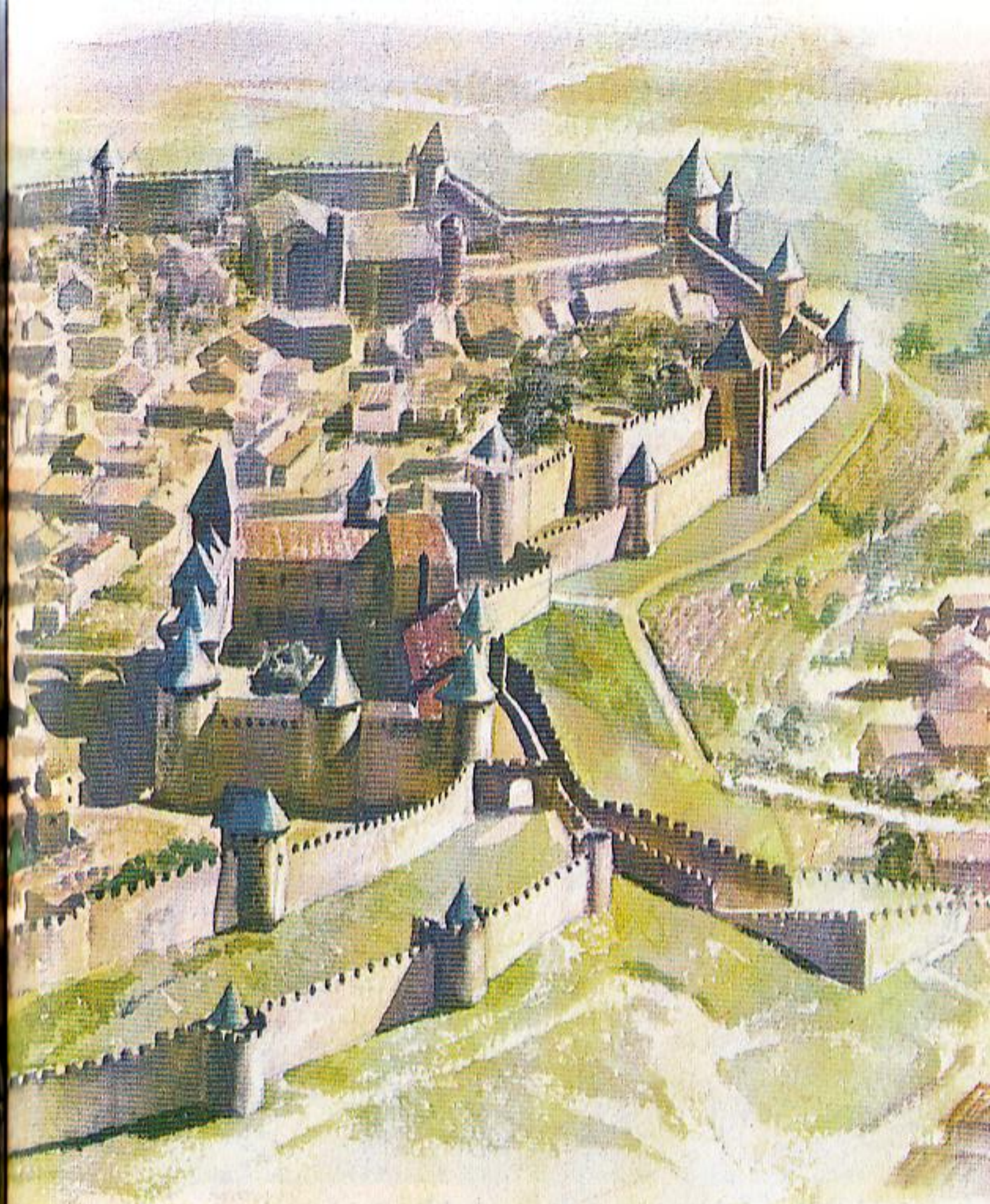
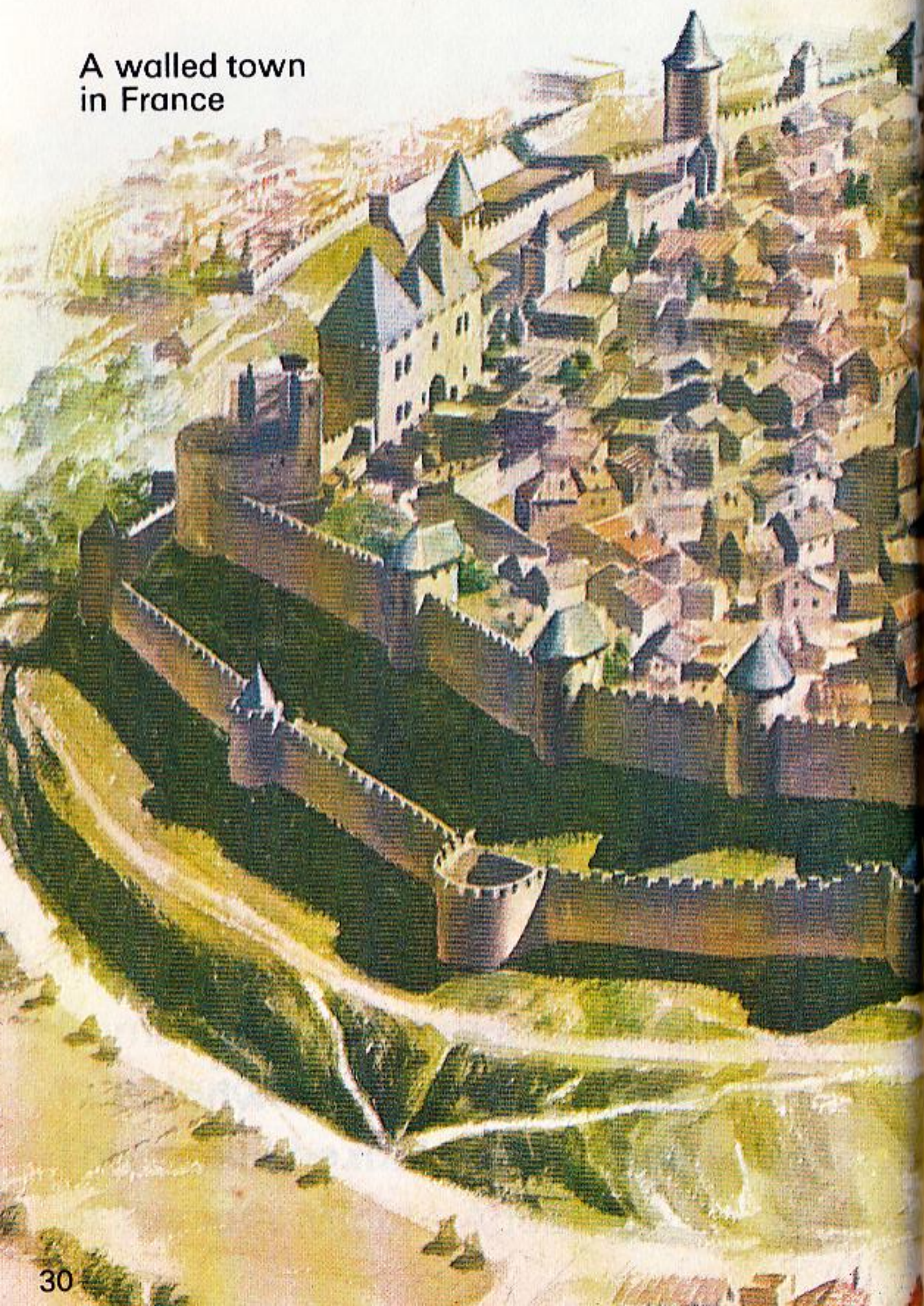


Many castles today are ruins. The picture also shows what this castle once looked like.



## Walls around towns

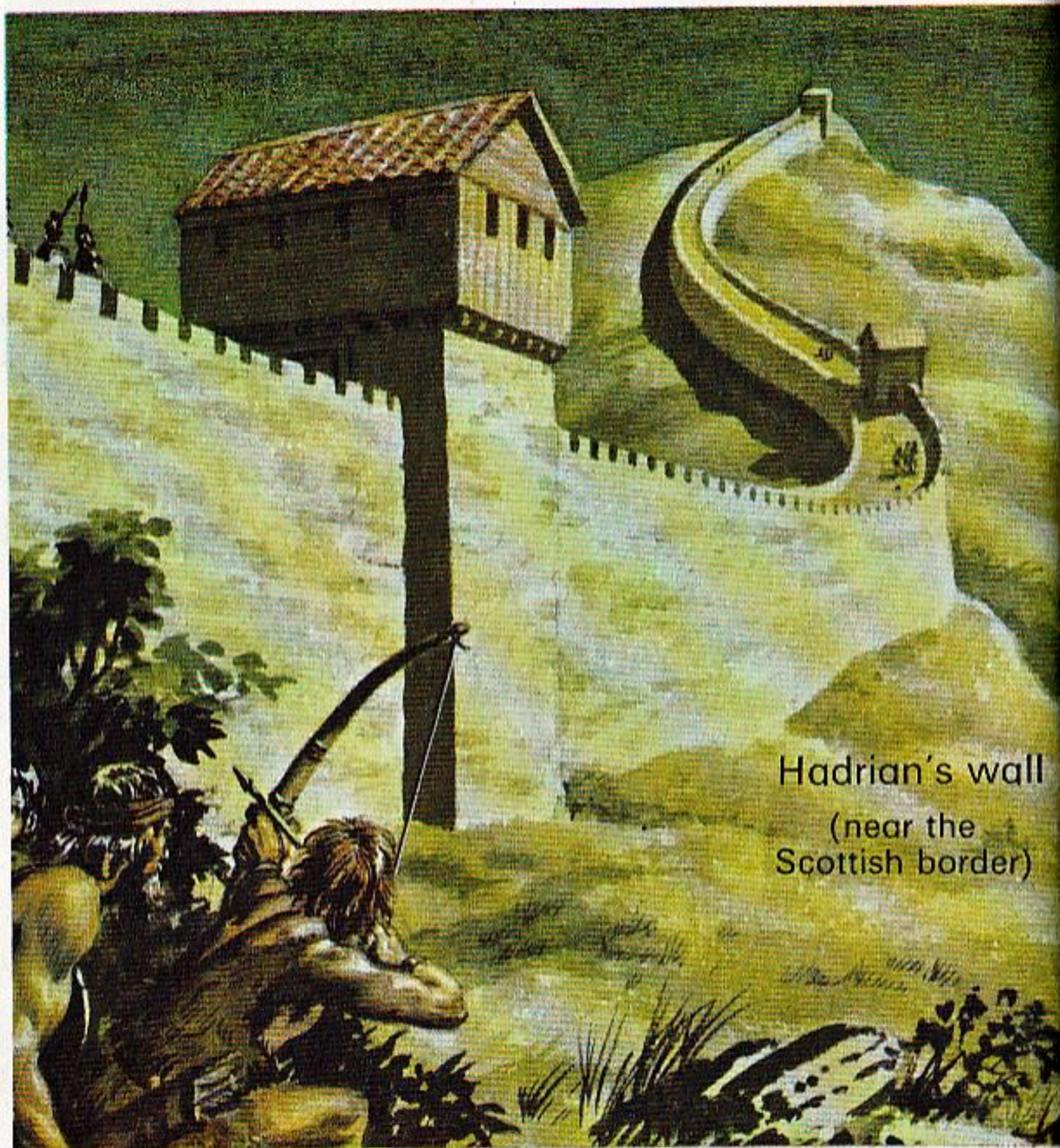
A walled town  
in France



Some towns had walls around them.  
These can still be seen in Europe.  
In Britain you can see them  
at York, Chester and Conway.

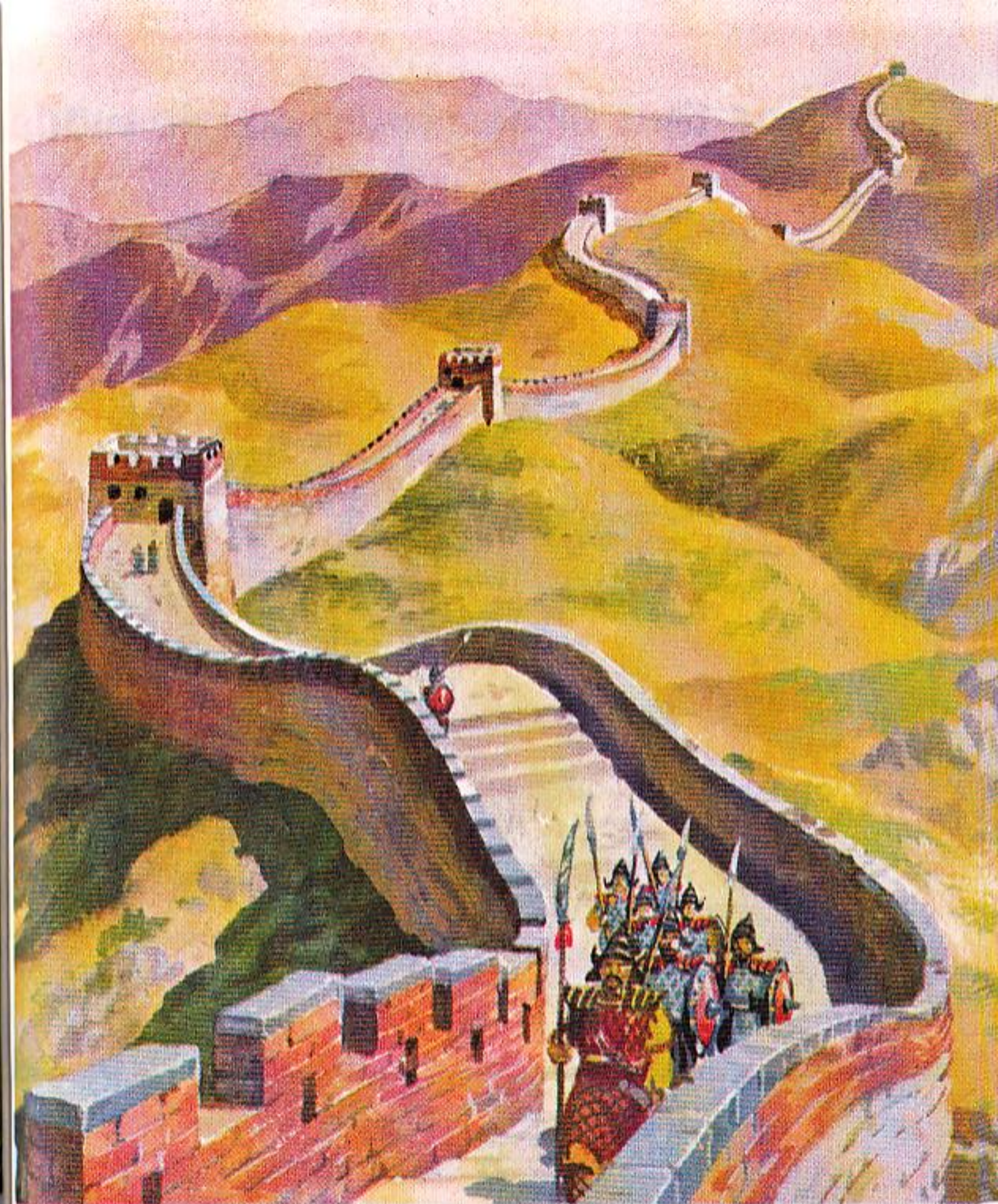


## Walls between countries



Hadrian's wall  
(near the  
Scottish border)

The Romans built this wall to keep the Picts out of England. It was 73 miles (117 km) long. There were small towers and forts along it.

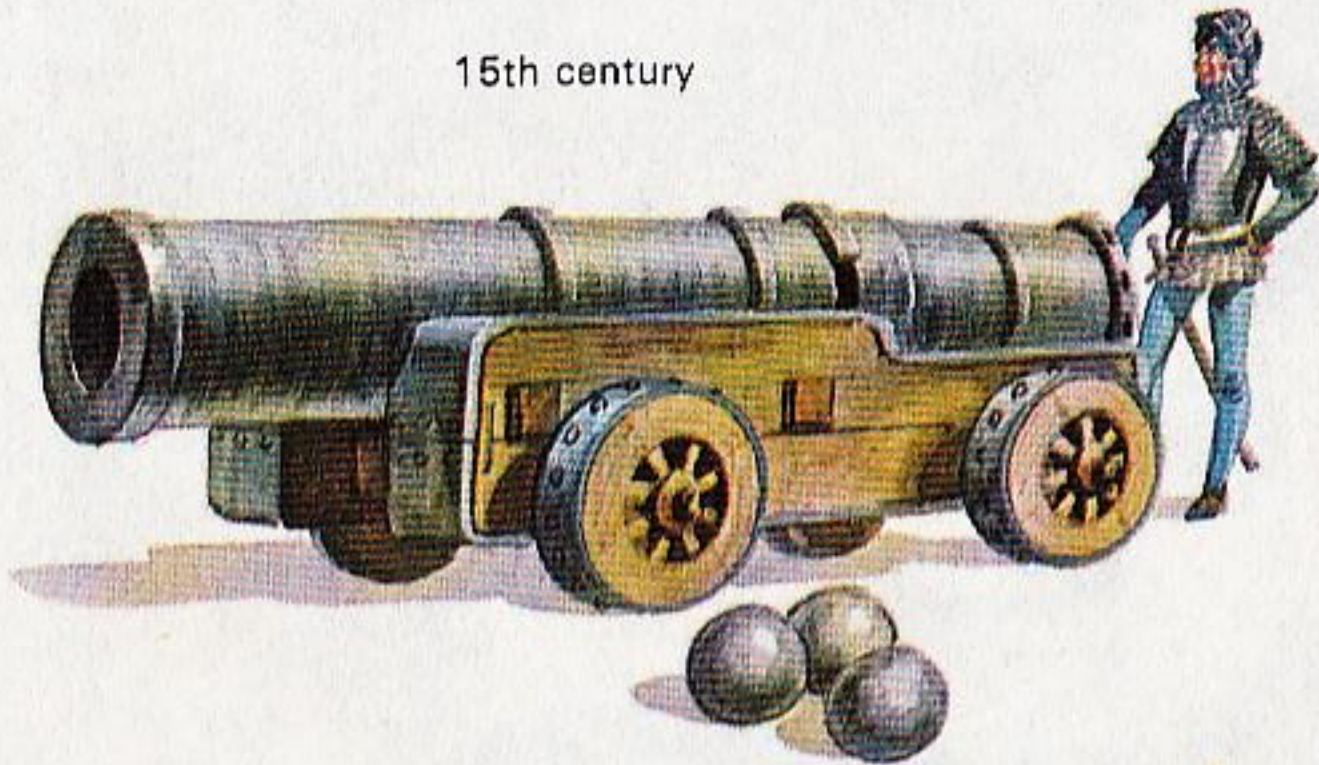


The oldest wall to guard a country is the Great Wall of China. It is 2,000 years old and 1,500 miles (2 414 km) long.

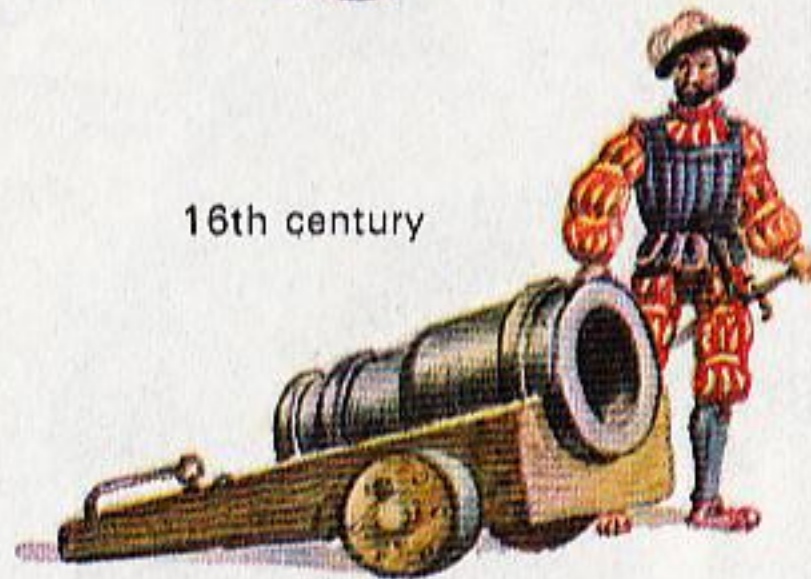


## Cannons that broke down castle walls

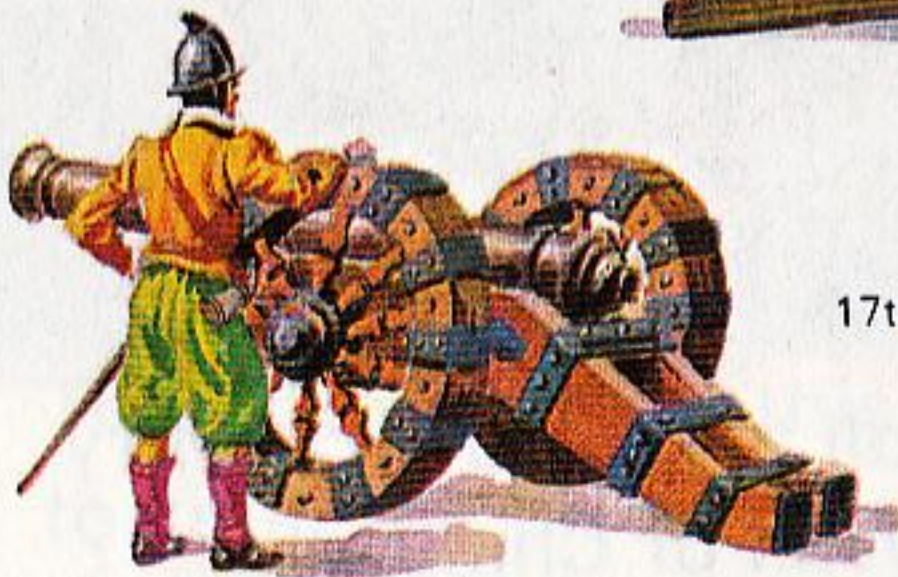
15th century



16th century

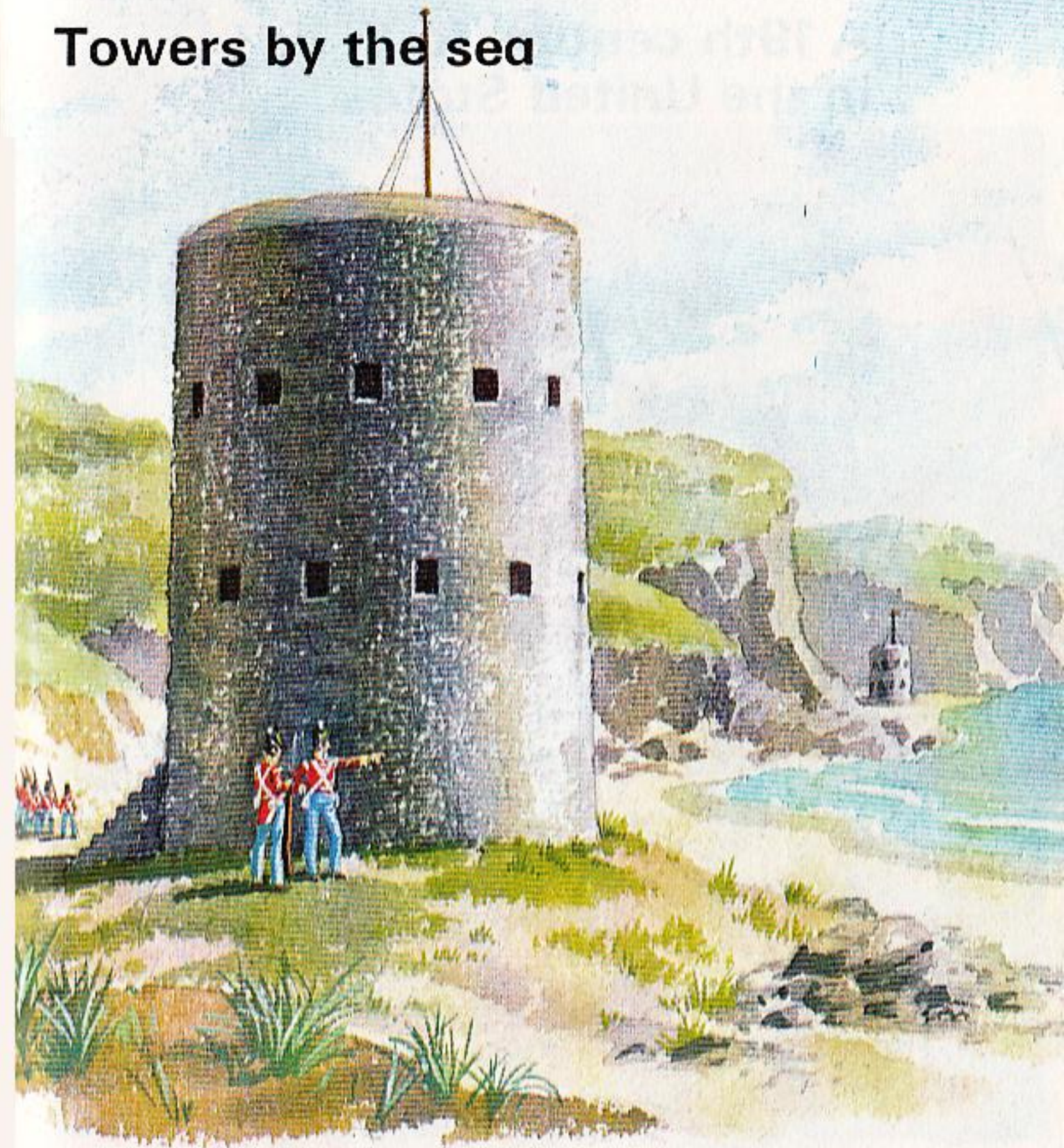


17th century



The first cannons were used about 600 years ago.

## Towers by the sea



Martello towers like this were used to guard the coast of England. They were built 200 years ago.



## A 19th century fort in the United States



Forts like this were used by American soldiers about 120 years ago. The Indians had no cannons to break down the walls.

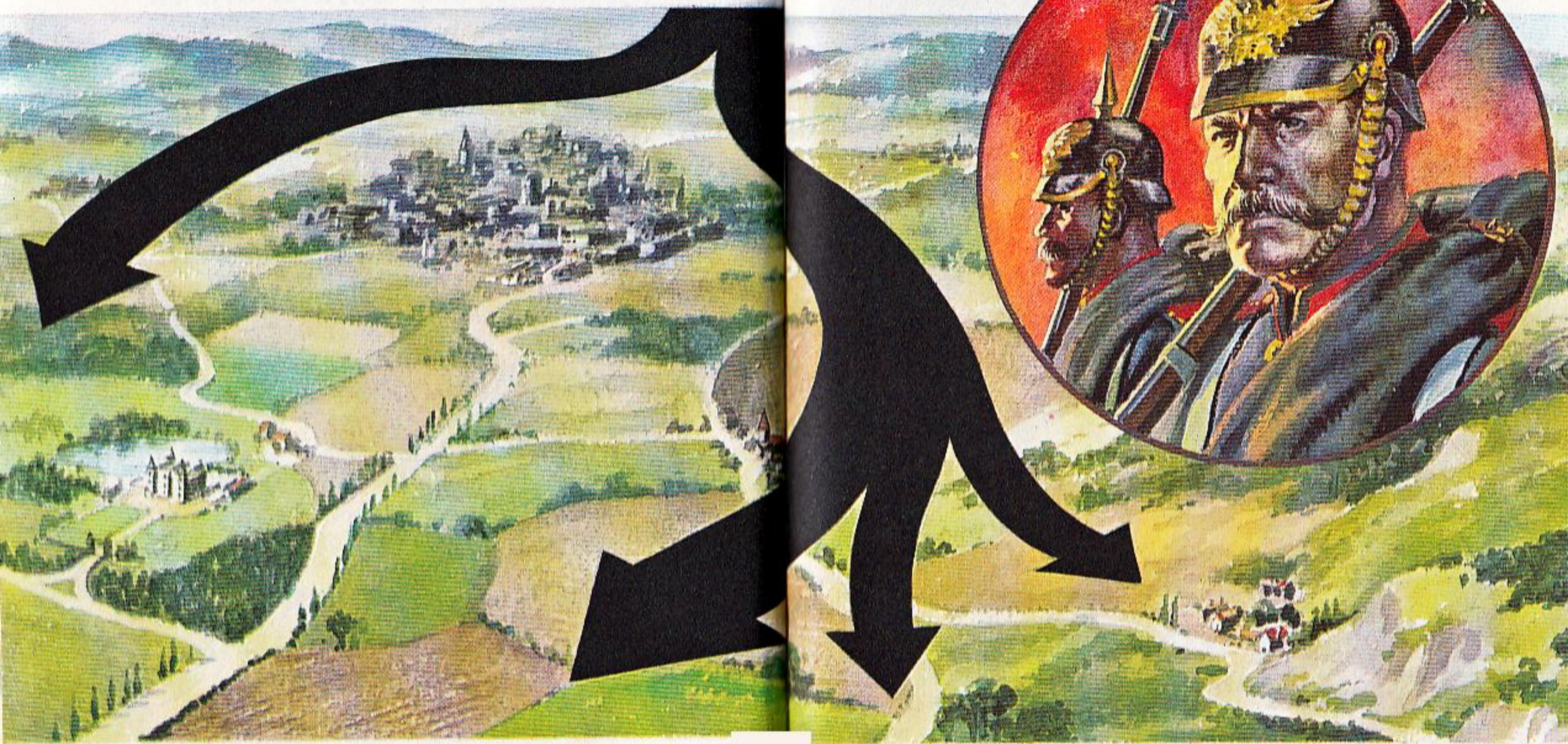
## A Russian fort



This was the fort of Sebastopol in 1854. The French and British could not capture it.



## Forts became less important

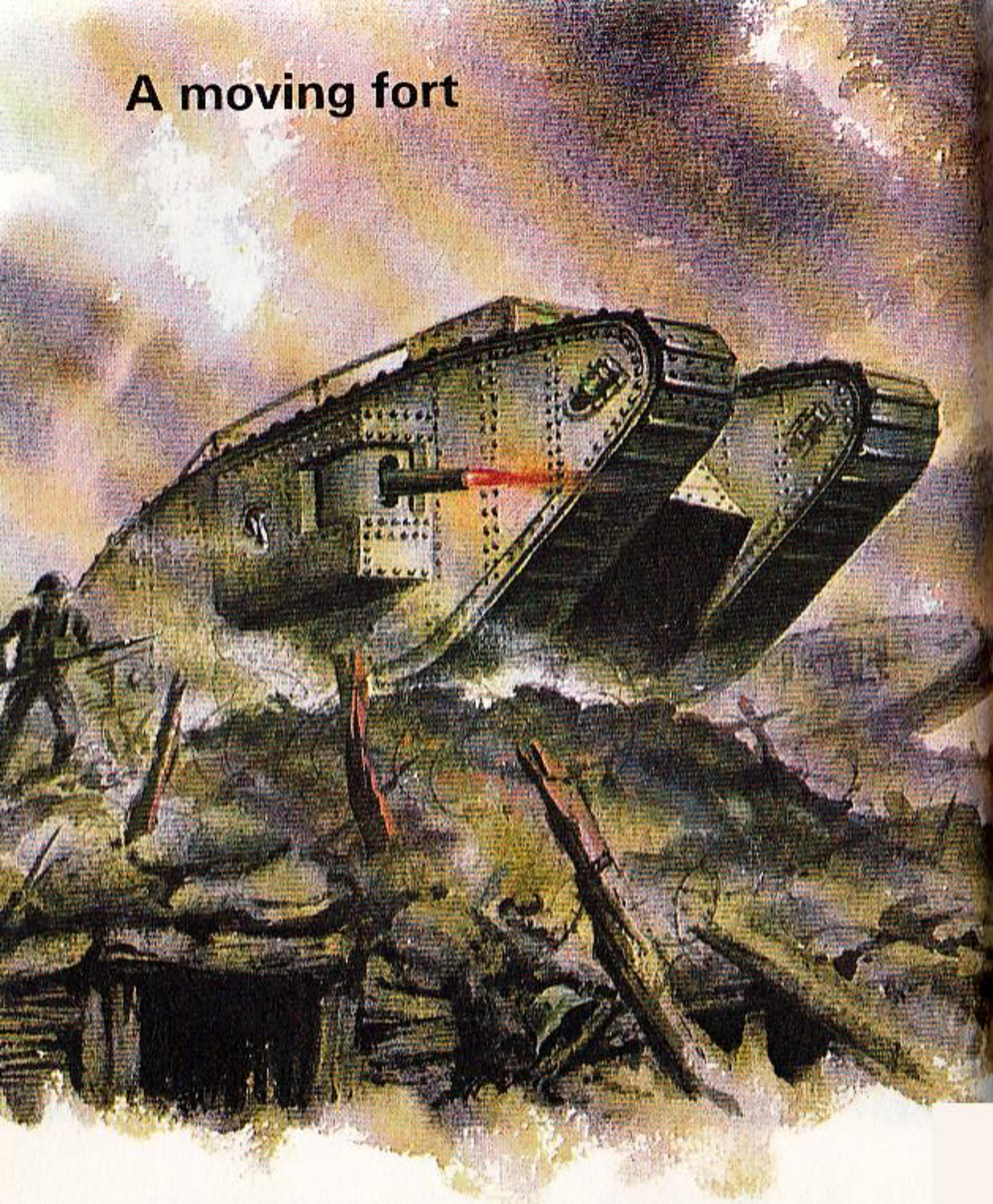


Forts became less important.  
Armies marched round them.  
In 1870, the Prussians reached  
Paris in this way.

The arrows show how it was  
done.

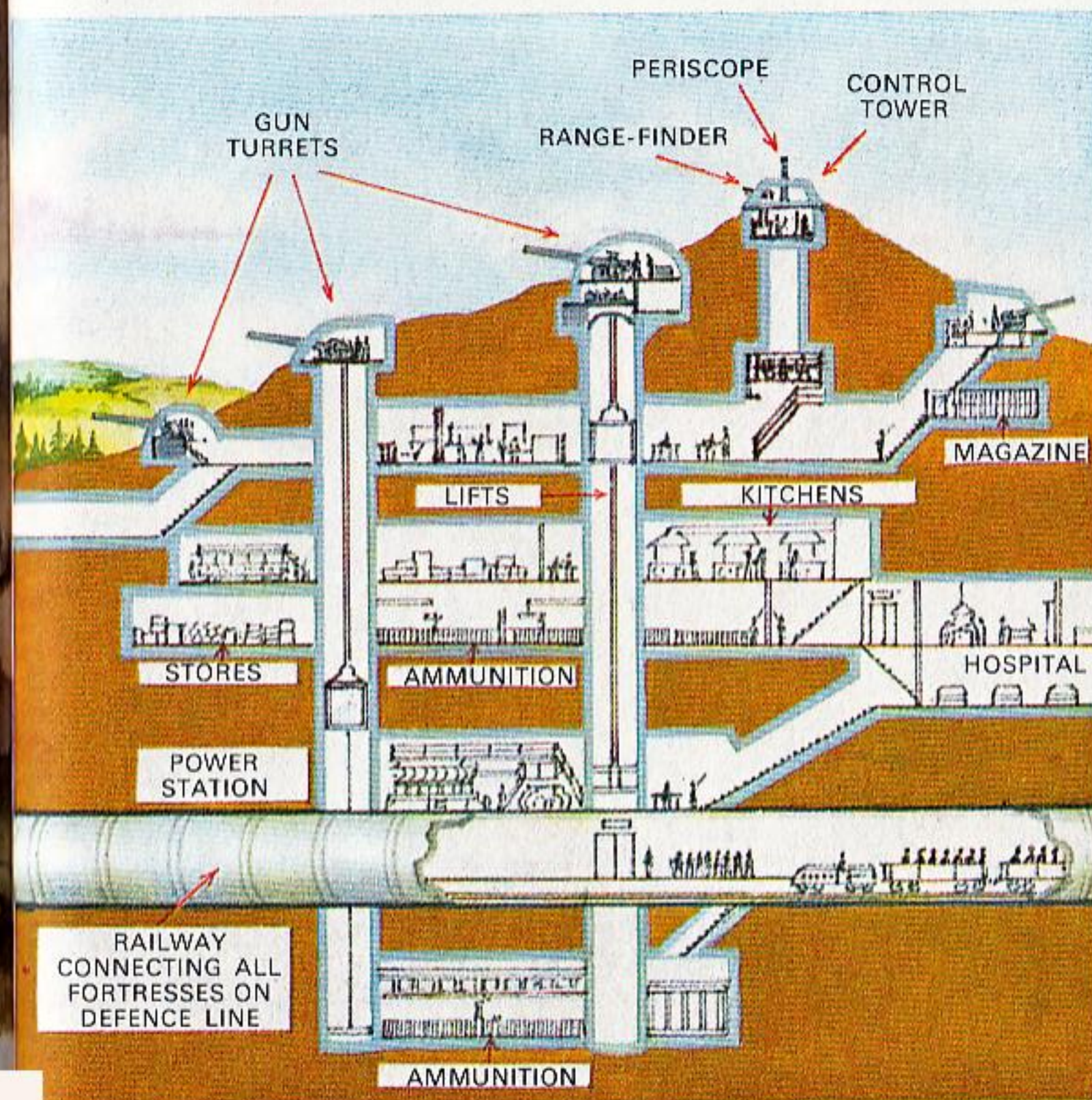


## A moving fort



A tank is really a moving fort.  
This was one of the first tanks.  
It was used in 1917,  
in the First World War.

## The Maginot Line



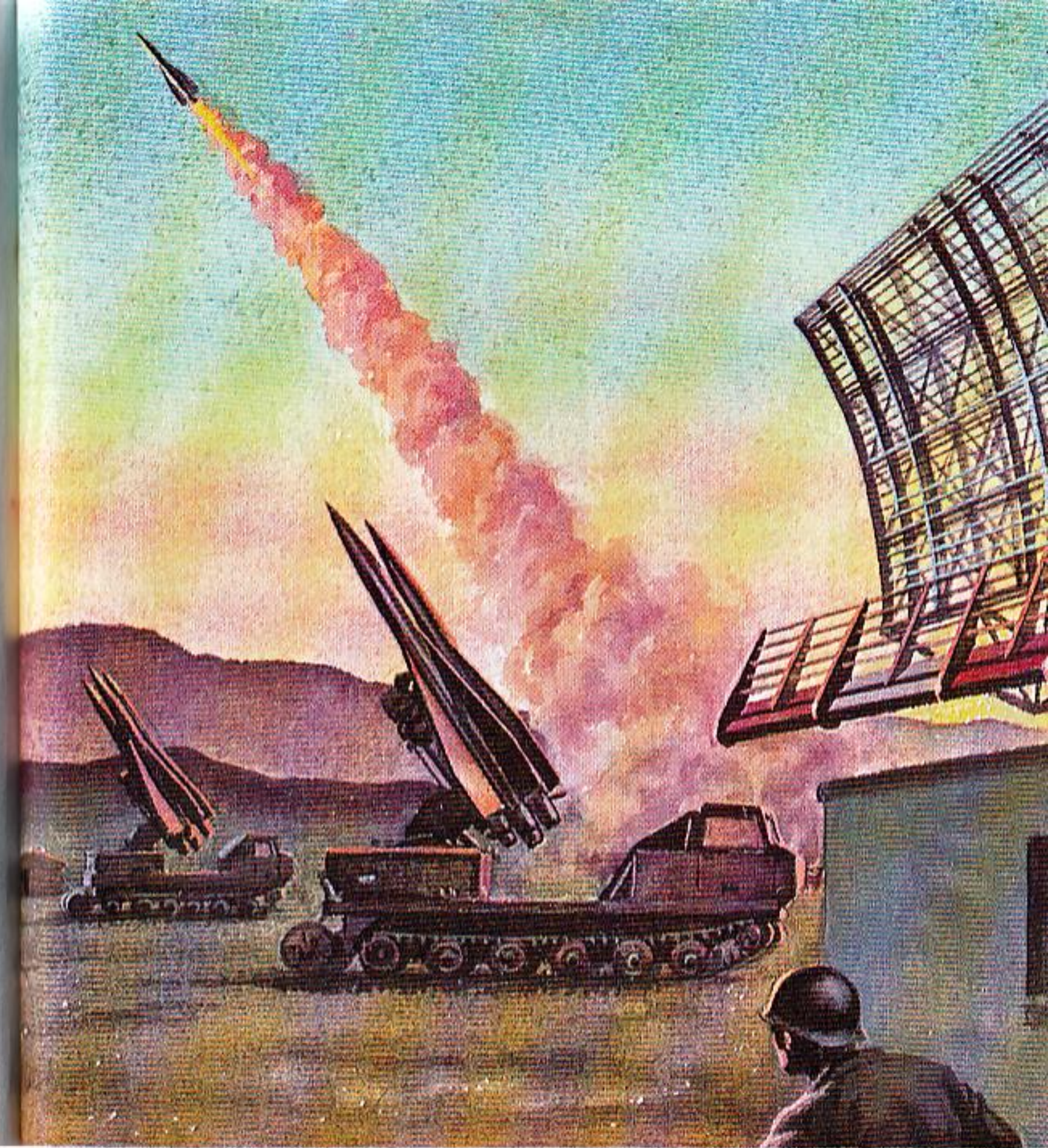
Early in the Second World War,  
French soldiers lived in forts like this.  
They worked, ate and slept  
under the ground.



## Defending a modern town



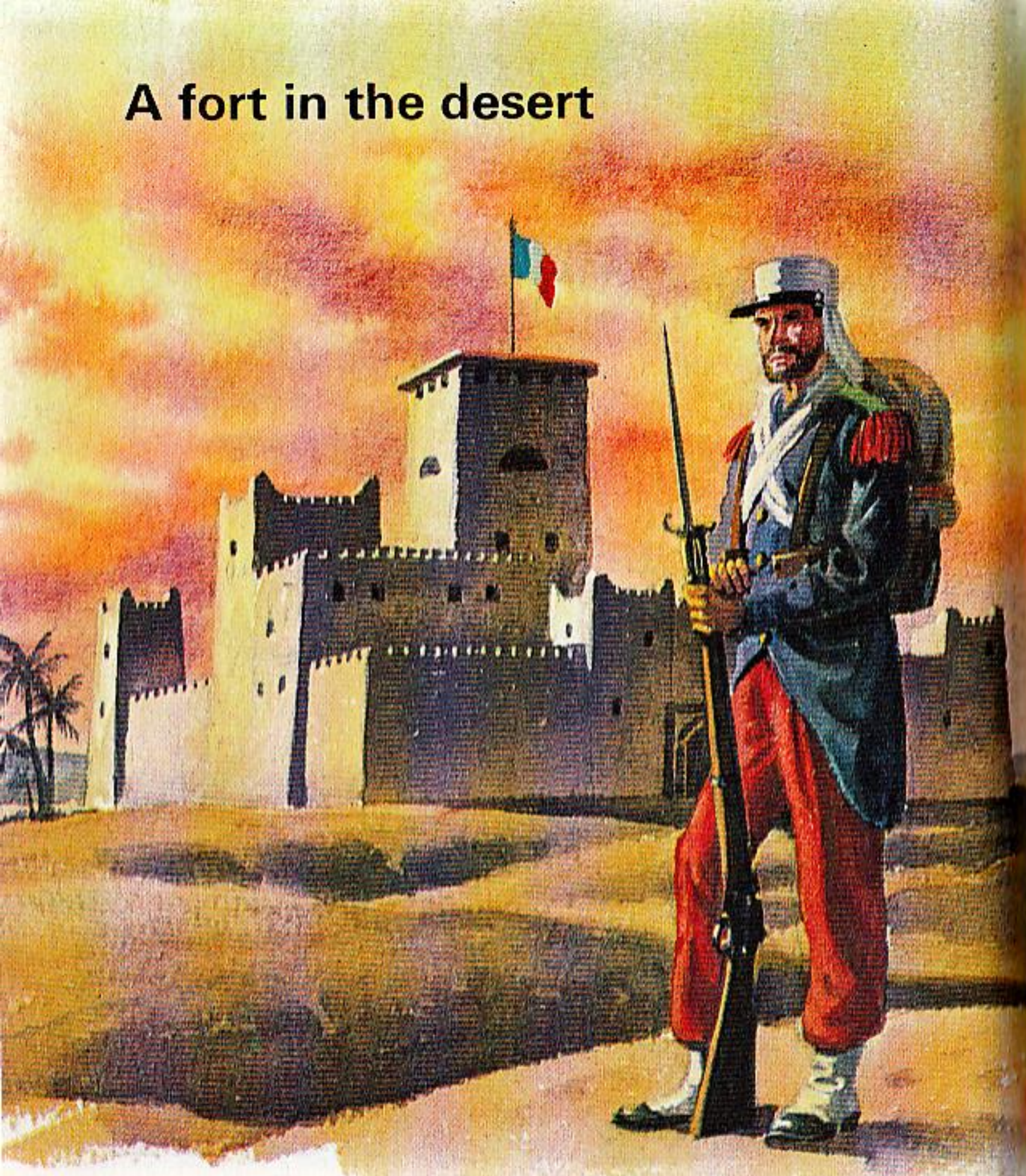
In the Second World War, bombers attacked towns. Wires hanging from these balloons made a kind of wall to stop them. The aircraft could not get too close.



In olden days, defenders on castle walls watched for attackers. Today, enemy aircraft and rockets, hundreds of miles away, can be shown on a kind of television screen.

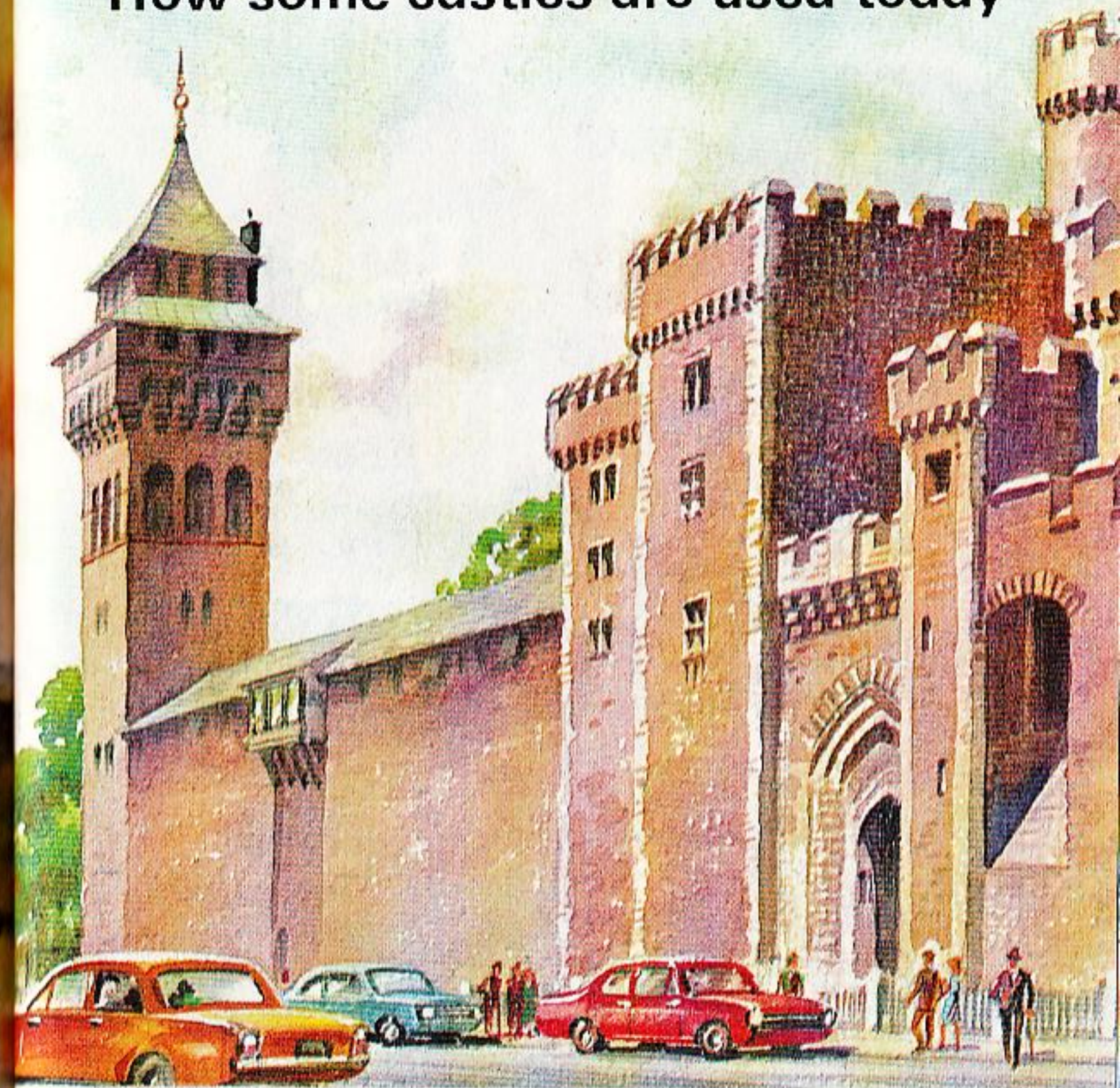


## A fort in the desert



Some French soldiers lived in forts like this in the desert. They were in North Africa.

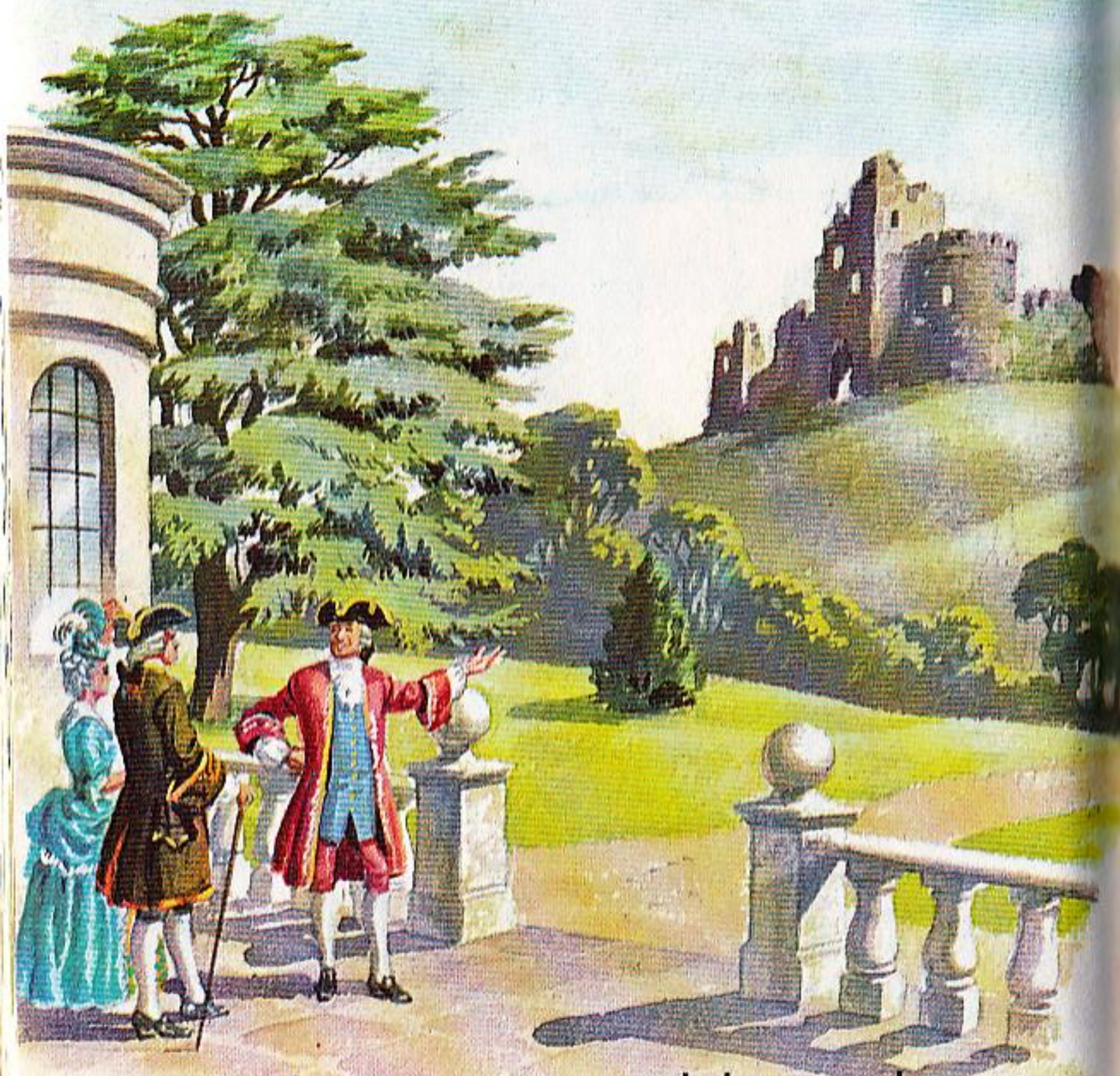
## How some castles are used today



Many castles are still in use today. This castle in Cardiff is used as a college.



## Imitation castles that can sometimes be seen today



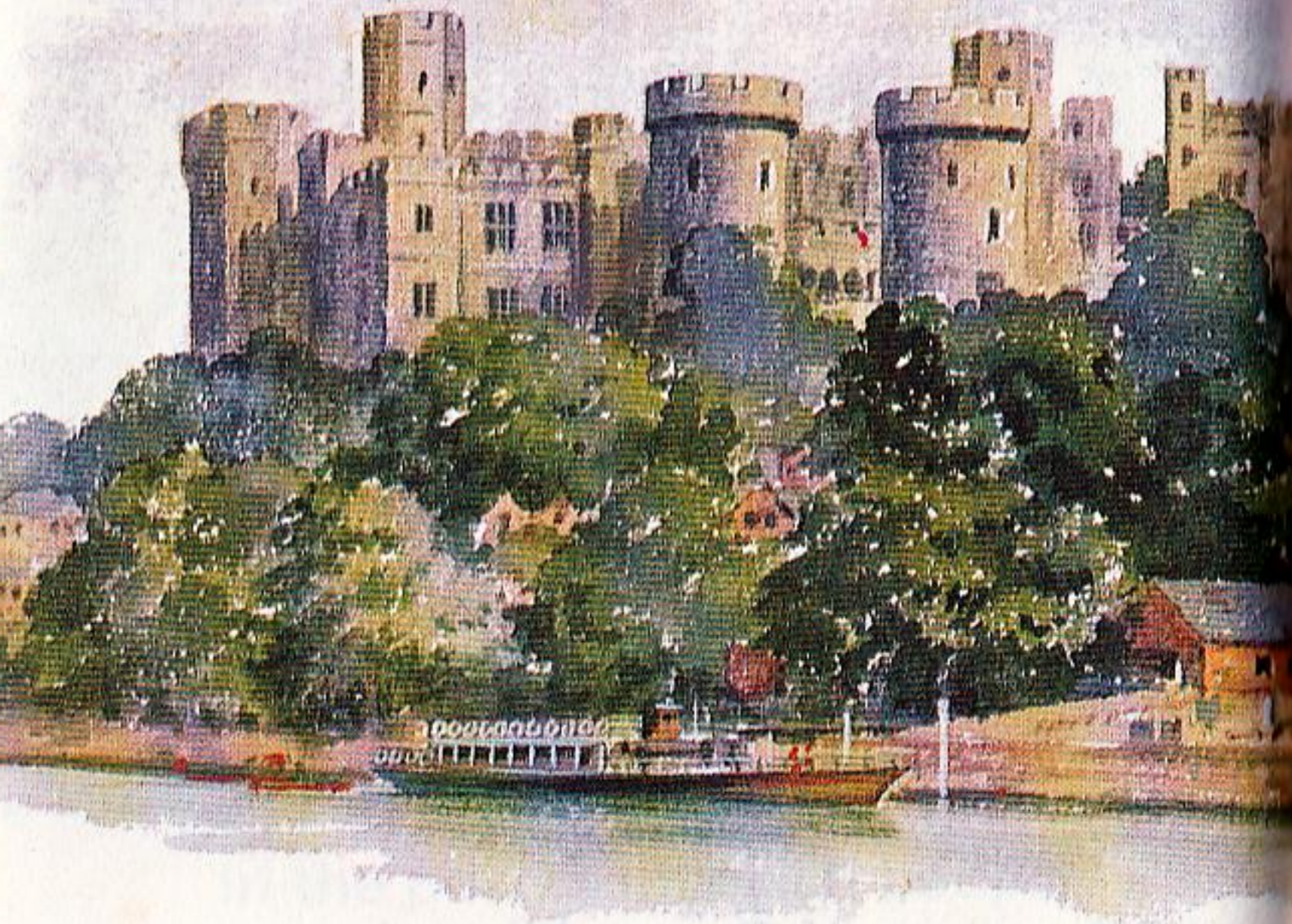
In the past, some rich people built mock, ruined castles. These were called follies. The people thought that follies made their parks more interesting.



In the days of Queen Victoria, some houses like these were built. They were made to look like castles. The owners felt more important.



## Windsor Castle



Windsor Castle is the most famous castle in England. It is one of the homes of the Queen.



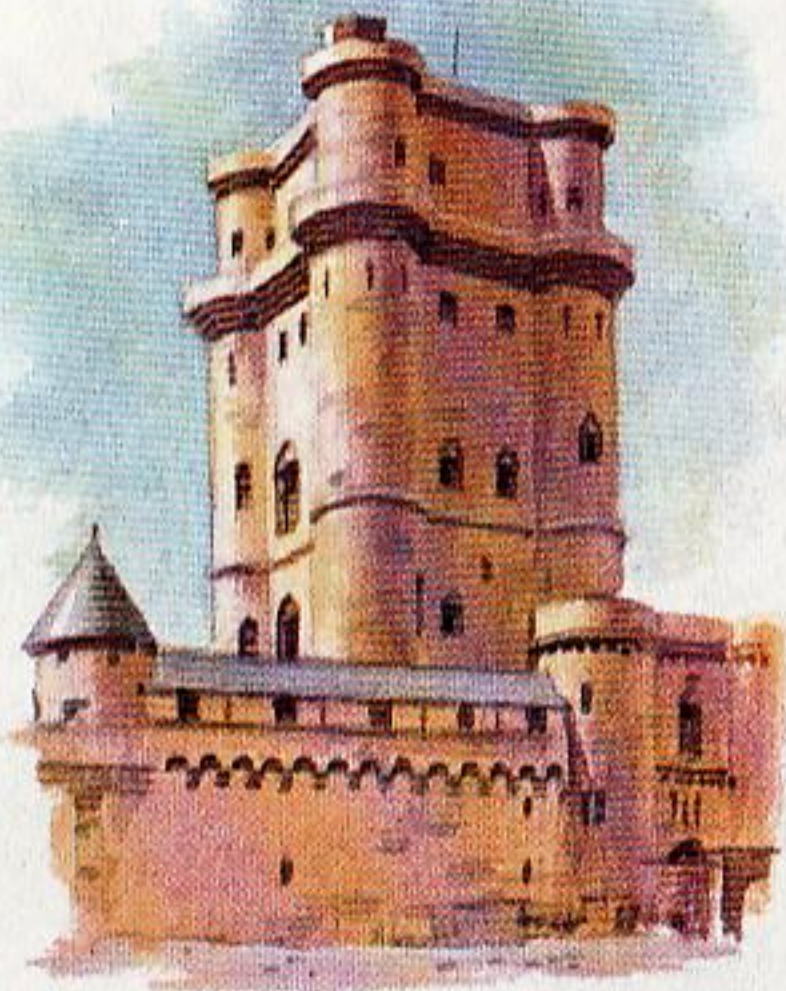
There has been a castle here since the time of William the Conqueror.



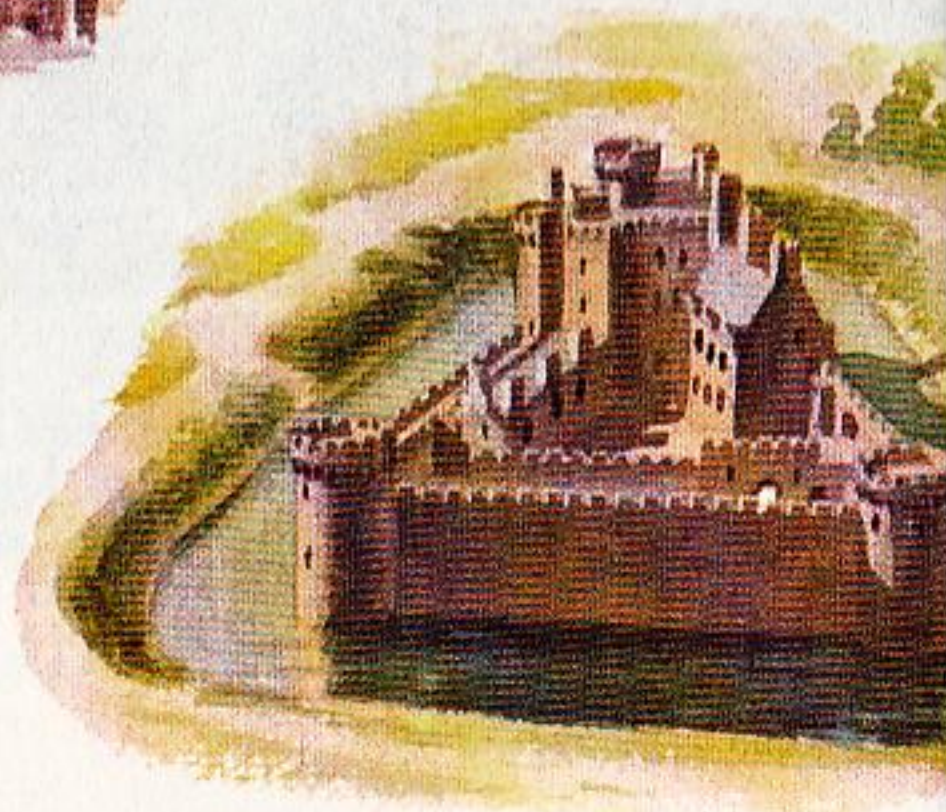
A German castle  
in a forest.



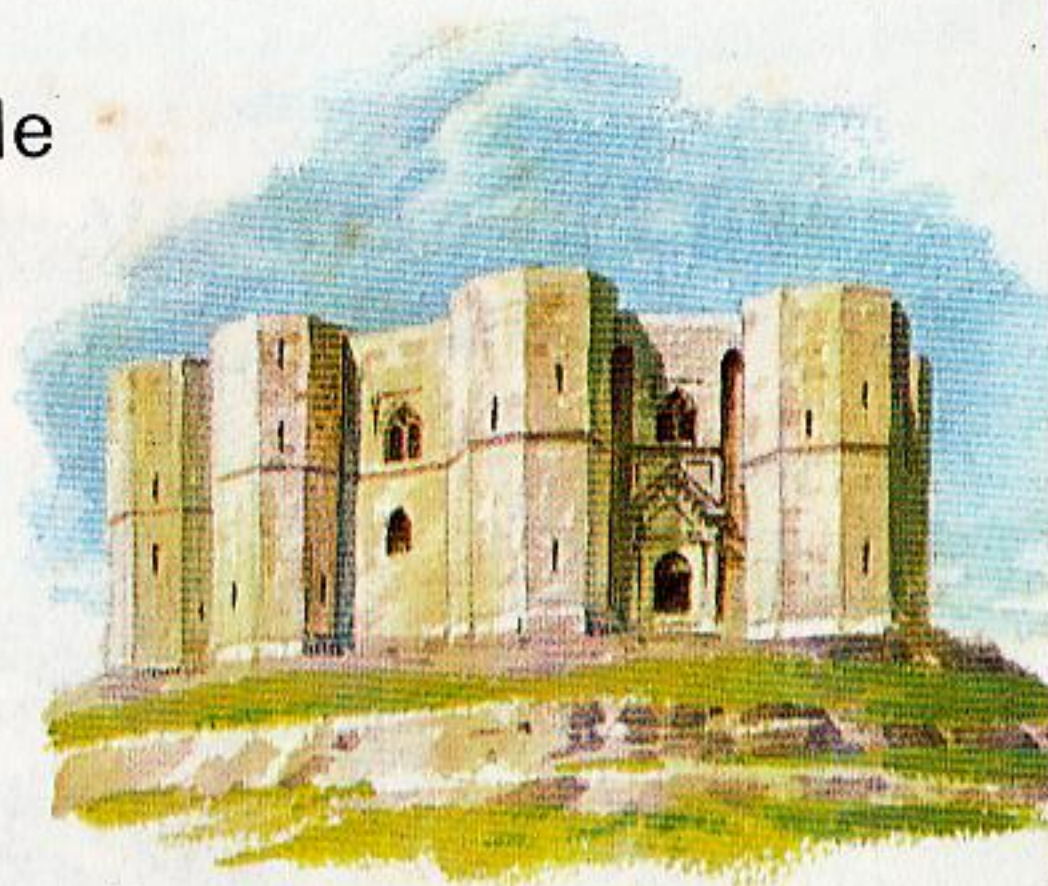
A castle  
near Paris.



A Scottish  
castle.



A hunting castle  
in Italy.



A German castle  
on a hill.

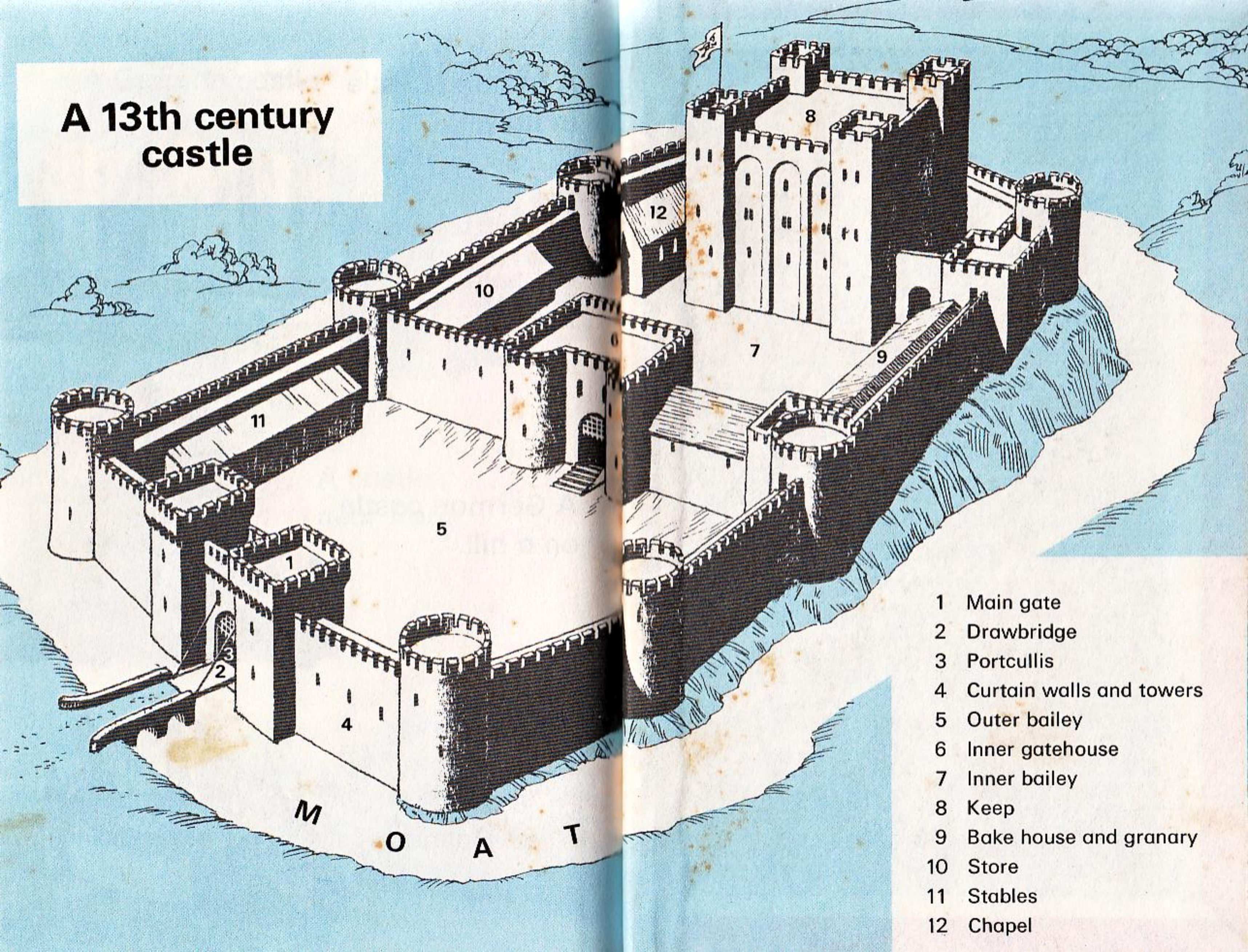


A castle  
in Holland.





# A 13th century castle



- 1 Main gate
- 2 Drawbridge
- 3 Portcullis
- 4 Curtain walls and towers
- 5 Outer bailey
- 6 Inner gatehouse
- 7 Inner bailey
- 8 Keep
- 9 Bake house and granary
- 10 Store
- 11 Stables
- 12 Chapel